



SADDLE UP

Frank wins cycle clubman trophy at 78



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BANJO DAN

Plucky young rising star of folk scene



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Most of arrests at demo were anti-EDL

MOST of the people arrested after an English Defence League march in Dudley were counter protesters, it has emerged.

Police said five out of the 29 people arrested were supporters of the far-right EDL. But the rest were counter protesters, including supporters of the group Unite Against Fascism.

Officers arrested the people for breaching the peace during the protests on February 7 in the town centre.

Most were released without charge.

Around 50 members of Unite Against Fascism held a counter-protest in Castle Street while EDL protesters gathered outside the council house on Priory Road after marching from King Street.

The breakdown on the arrests was confirmed by West Midlands Police following a Freedom of Information request.

The force drafted in hundreds of officers from as far away as Wales to cover the demonstrations. Policing the event cost taxpayers £321,000.

Hundreds of officers from across the country were called in as more than 600 members of the far right organisation descended on the town. Some 70 shops closed for the day.

■ Policing bill — page 11

School switch to academy

A WOLLASTON school has become an academy in a move which will see it form closer ties with a college in the town.

Ridgewood High School has become a member of the newly formed King Edward's Stourbridge Academy Trust. Gaining academy status means the school, in Park Road West, becomes independent of the local authority.

Head Clive Nutting said he was looking forward to working closely with King Edward VI College.

CALL FOR MORE NURSERY PLACES

MORE nursery places for children with special needs should be created in Dudley, the borough's education chief says, as a fresh consultation with parents got under way.

Councillor Tim Crumpton has pledged to review the services on offer to families.

It comes after the council made a U-turn on plans to scrap free transport to nurseries following a petition signed by more than 800 people.

Councillor Crumpton said the consultation had highlighted the need to look at how services could be improved, as he believed there was a shortage of nursery places in the borough.

"We are going to look at the wider picture," he said. "We need extra places and some of the children need help with transport, so we are going to look at what changes or improvements we need to make."

"I am going to meet a group of parents to discuss the outcomes of the first consultation and discuss what we are going to do next."

Councillor Crumpton said he was keen to get as many views as possible.

Value

"The consultation has offered tremendous value on many levels and has highlighted to everyone the undoubted quality of our early years services."

"It has raised a tough debate around how we deliver education for children with additional needs."

"We will now be gathering the information from the consultation before sitting down to consult further with colleagues in the council's scrutiny committee and

By Heather Large

with parents to see how we can best move forward. We made it clear from the outset that no child would be denied access to these nurseries because of money and that we would continue to provide support where it is needed."

"We know we need to look at the service in the wider context and this may involve re-modelling it to ensure everyone has access to these much-valued services," he added.

Dudley Council originally proposed the transport service for children attending specialist nurseries be cut as part of its budget proposals for 2015/16.

But the controversial move was withdrawn following consultations with parents and the tabling of an amendment by the Conservative group at a full council meeting last week.

The controlling Labour group accepted the amendment and it was passed by councillors.

Parents attending the full council meeting cheered as they heard the amendment had been supported.

The authority currently pays for dozens of children with additional needs to travel to specialist nurseries in the borough but says it is not legally required to do so.

Lessons are plain sailing for students



Head teacher Andy Griffiths, Ian Austin MP, Tony Sutton, Ellowes Hall students Holly Holloway and, right, Maia Shillam

PUPILS at a Dudley secondary school are being encouraged to get out on the open water after it became one of the first in the region to make sailing part of its curriculum.

With their efforts inside the classroom delivering impressive results, bosses at Ellowes Hall School in Lower Gornal decided they would take advantage of their relationship with Himley Hall Sailing Club.

The sport has been part of the school's enrichment programme for the last year but staff have now taken the extra step of making it a permanent fixture on the timetable.

The offer will initially be open to sixth formers before being rolled out to younger pupils.

Two new sailing boats have been bought by the school, costing around £13,000, they have been named Aspire and Achieve after the school's motto.

Headteacher Alan Jasper said: "We try to be forward thinking and provide as many opportunities as we possibly can."

"We are relatively close to Himley Hall Sailing Club and thought it was something we could do and had members of staff who were keen to help out."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin paid a visit to the sailing club as the new boats were unveiled. He praised the school for its focus on sport as well as getting results in the classroom.

"Education and skills has to be our number one priority in Dudley, so I welcome the brilliant work of Ellowes Hall in raising standards," he said.

"I'm pleased to see the school building on its partnership with Himley Hall Sailing Club to teach even more youngsters sailing. "Sports are helping teach the school's students that with discipline, hard work and dedication, the sky is the limit."

Petition move to save King Arthur pub

A PETITION has been launched against plans to build a new supermarket on the site of a landmark pub in Dudley.

Aldi has lodged proposals to demolish The King Arthur, beside the Birmingham New Road to make way for the store.

But West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge is now calling on council bosses to reject the scheme and for the building to be saved from the bulldozer.

Councillors refused Aldi permission to demolish the pub in September, telling bosses they needed detailed proposals.

The supermarket has now produced detailed documents, saying the 1,000 sq ft store will create 40 jobs and have a 94-space car park.

Mr Etheridge, who represents Sedgley on Dudley Council, claimed the store would generate traffic on the already congested Priory Road which sees traffic often queuing as far as The Broadway at peak times.

He added: "I also fear the creation of an Aldi on this site would severely impact on the trade of nearby small retailers in Priory Road."

"The development would also see the loss of trees and would throw local roads into greater traffic-choked chaos."

■ Plan revived — page 2

Town's bus lanes axed

PLANS to scrap bus lanes in Halesowen have been approved.

Dudley transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed has given the go-ahead to axe the lanes in Bromsgrove Road and westbound on Queensway. It followed a 12-month trial which the council said had shown there were no benefits of having them.

Councillor Ahmed said: "The cost of revoking the lanes will be approximately £2,500."

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Aldi revive plans for landmark pub site

ALDI has revived plans to build a new supermarket at the site of a landmark pub in Dudley.
 The King Arthur, beside the Birmingham New Road, has been empty for three years and was boarded up after repeated vandal and arson attacks.
 Councillors refused Aldi permission to demolish the pub in September, telling bosses they needed

detailed proposals. The supermarket has now produced detailed documents, saying the 1,000 sq ft store will create 40 jobs and have a 94-space car park.
 Vehicles would access the shop from Priory Road with the Birmingham New Road entrance closed off.
 Previous plans to turn the pub into a hotel failed to materialise and there has been growing concern the

abandoned building is becoming an eyesore.
 Councillor Ken Finch, who represents the Castle and Priory ward, said the Aldi plan was in the best interests of the community.
 "It was going to be a hotel or flats but it never happened," he said.
 "There has been concerns about fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and gypsies going on there. The only

concern with the plan is traffic, that is the only possible problem I see."
 Councillor Finch added he would be sad to see the pub go but that its potential demolition was a 'fact of life'.
 "This is the best thing we can expect to tidy the area up and in that area there is no big supermarket to serve the estates around there without going into Dudley town centre."

Concern grows over homeless on streets

MORE than 50 people are sleeping rough on streets in the West Midlands – including six in Dudley – sparking calls for more to be done to tackle the issue.

It comes as the number of homeless people in England rises by 14 per cent. The figure of 52 for rough sleepers in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Birmingham is up by one on the year before.

Traders get chance to run market

TRADERS will take over the day-to-day running of Dudley Market under new plans.

Talks have been taking place between Dudley Council and a number of stallholders.

Officials said traders had 'expressed a desire' to take over the day-to-day running of the six-day-a-week market.

The project would see a non-profit organisation set up, with traders taking over direct management for the market for an initial period of 12 months.

It would build on the market's traditional appeal and allow specialist events to be introduced during the evening and on Sundays to boost visitor numbers.

The scheme was being discussed at a meeting of the council's cabinet yesterday (Wednesday). If approved, the traders would take over the running of the revamped market on August 1.

Regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "Subject to approval, the council will work with traders on joint marketing programmes and activities."

Market traders boss Len Lenihan said: "We can see the potential."

Statistics for autumn last year are intended to give a 'snapshot' of how many rough sleepers would be found on any one night.

The study by the Department for Communities and Local Government found that 2,744 people slept rough in England in autumn 2014, an increase of 14 per cent from 2,414 in 2013.

The number of people sleeping rough across the country has increased year-on-year over the last five years and by 55 per cent since 2010.

Doorways

High streets in Dudley and Bearwood are being used with homeless people squeezing into shop doorways or under canopies.

There are seven people sleeping rough in Wolverhampton on any given night, compared to six in 2013. There were six in Dudley—the same as the previous year — five in Walsall, which is three fewer than 2013, and two in Sandwell, which is down from three. In Birmingham there are 20, up from 14 the year before.

Chief executive Howard Sinclair, of Charity St Mungo's Broadway, which helps 2,500 homeless people across England, said: "We are extremely concerned that yet again we are seeing a rise in the levels of rough sleeping. This is a problem that we cannot ignore and needs to be a top priority for the next Government."

Concern at lines hitting shops



Concerned traders in Dudley are pictured beside the lines they say are causing a problem

TRADERS are furious after parking restrictions were put outside their shops.

Owners of businesses along Wolverhampton Street in Dudley said although the street has had yellow lines in place for several years, the addition of new 'no-loading' lines had made their situation worse.

Mohammed Sagir said traders can no longer have deliveries direct to their door and the lines discouraged customers.

Mr Sagir, who owns the Direct Link phone shop, said the lines appeared on February 16 without warning. "They just

appeared and traffic wardens have been ticketing people ever since."

Mr Sagir said a petition with 20 signatures was handed to Dudley Council with a letter but has not yet received a response.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the order to prevent loading and unloading on a narrow section of the street, between 9am and 5pm, was introduced following complaints over pedestrian safety. He added: "The order was originally introduced last year after a consultation which received no objections."

Brewery links up for events at museum

A BREWERY has joined forces with Dudley's Black Country Living Museum to stage some of the biggest events at the attraction.

Banks's Brewery, in Wolverhampton, has been named sole sponsor of the Tipton Road museum's 1940s weekend and three Halloween nights to be held later this year.

Bosses from the museum said the agreement with the brewery, which was founded in 1840 and is part of Marston's, had now been finalised.

As part of the scheme, a selection of Marston's beer will be supplied at both events and each event will be represented by its own brew.

Visitors will be able to enjoy the brewery's Sunbeam beer at the 1940s weekend. The Halloween evenings will have Hobgoblin, a brew from sister brand Wychemwood which is also owned by Marston's.

The museum will stock Banks's merchandise in its shop and eateries. In return Marston's staff will be working with museum staff to train in managing cellars.

Director of development at the museum Vicki Stanley said they were pleased the agreement had now been confirmed.

Climbers raise charity cash

MORE than £2,300 have been handed over by fundraisers who climbed Britain's highest peak, Ben Nevis, for the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

The sum is the latest donation from a total of £4,600 raised by the Bert Bissell Memorial Walk. Money will be given to Action Heart and Guide Dogs, two causes supported by the mayor Councillor Margaret Aston. Dudley North MP Ian Austin joined a group including the mayor's son Councillor Adam Aston in memory of peace campaigner and climber Mr Bissell.

Historic name

A ROAD on a new housing estate will be named after the last feudal owner of the Manor of Sedgley.

Woodbourne Homes has proposed the street name Algar Grange after Earl Algar, last Saxon owner of the Manor of Sedgley during the Kingdom of Mercia.

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More jobs are under scrutiny for savings

A CONSULTATION on the second phase of a review to cut £1 million from Dudley Council's management budget will begin this month.

The council has already slashed the number of director and assistant director posts from 22 to 11 as it battles to find up to £57m of savings within three years.

Bosses will now look at the next tier down with heads of service being reviewed.

A consultation process is due to start this month.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council said: "Once complete, the major restructure currently underway in Dudley is still on track to reduce senior management costs by £1m.

Redundancy

"This is not just a one-off saving; it will be on-going, year on year.

"In the first year there will be redundancy and pension costs to take into consideration.

"However, looking to the future, the senior management restructure in Dudley is still on track to save this authority £1m each and every year."

Stabbing — teen in court

A TEENAGER will appear in Wolverhampton Crown Court accused of attempted murder after a man was stabbed on his doorstep in Dudley.

The 17-year-old youth was arrested at an address in Netherton on February 24. A 65-year-old man was attacked just before 6.15pm on the same day in Owen Street, Kates Hill, suffering serious stab wounds to his head, shoulder, chest and back.

At a hearing on Thursday it was agreed that the case will be heard in Wolverhampton on March 20.

Bostin' night out

A BOSTIN' night is in store with Black Country Gaz and comedienne Marleen. Big Up the Black Country features singing, comedy and even bellydancing at the Station Hotel, Castle Hill, on April 10. Tickets £10 include faggots and peas. Call 07866 476633.

Second chance because of 'disruptive lifestyle'

A TEENAGER from Dudley who took part in a street robbery has been given another chance to avoid being put behind bars after breaching her suspended jail sentence by failing to turn up for a probation appointment.

Wolverhampton Crown Court sitting at the city's magistrates court heard that Stacey Nance was part of a group who stole a mobile phone in an attack where the victim was punched and kicked.

She was given an 18 months jail sentence

suspended for two years for robbery. She was also given a curfew with supervision when she was sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court in December.

Structure

But Nance admitted breaching the order on January 27 after she failed to attend a probation appointment.

She was then arrested and kept in custody.

Mrs Blondel Thompson, defending bar-

rist, told the hearing at Wolverhampton: "All told she has missed many appointments and the probation report indicates that this was due to her life lacking structure. She also lacks self-esteem.

"They think they can help her by putting her on a short skills course," added Mrs Thompson.

Sentencing judge Mr Recorder Ciaran Rankin agreed to follow the recommendation and he ordered Nance, of Stourbridge Road, Dudley, to attend the Mariposa Pro-

ject for 20 days to help her overcome her 'disruptive lifestyle'. She must also observe a curfew from 8pm to 6am for one month.

"You were extremely fortunate to get a suspended sentence in the first place," said the judge.

"Having being given a fresh opportunity you almost immediately failed to comply with the supervision order."

He added that his decision not to trigger the jail term was due to her age and the fact that she had spent time in custody.

NHS give GPs more power over £400m health budget

GENERAL practitioners in Dudley have been handed more power to manage the borough's £400 million health care budget.

They will work with NHS England to decide how the money is spent and buy patient services such as hospital care and physiotherapy.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been given the green light to take over responsibility for co-commissioning the majority of GP services from next month. It is among some of the first organisations in the country to be given the go-ahead by NHS England.

Doctors will be more involved in planning developments and making improvements to existing services. They have already introduced longer opening hours at surgeries on Saturday mornings and preparations are under way for a new urgent care centre to open at Russells Hall Hospital next month.

Pressure

The new centre has been designed to reduce pressure on the under-pressure A&E and will replace the walk-in centre at Holly Hall. It will be open 24/7 and patients will be able to make appointments or just turn up.

Clinical executive Dr Jas Rathore said taking on more responsibility would enable Dudley CCG to make improvements.

"When we say 'co-commissioning' we mean taking joint responsibility with

By Heather Large

NHS England for commissioning, planning, developing, delivering, monitoring and managing the budget for GP services across Dudley," he said.

"We know our area, we know where GP services are most in need of improvement, we know the practices which are providing an outstanding service and can help to lead by example.

"Taking on a co-commissioning role will help us to make sure that our knowledge helps to shape future developments and protect the range of services.

"It also helps us to ensure that there remains a local focus on primary care in Dudley, supporting colleagues in general practice to get the best services for local people," he added.

Chairman of Dudley CCG Dr David Hegarty said: "Building better GP services and wrapping improved community health care around those GP services is a key part of our vision."

Museum seeks volunteers

THE Black Country Living Museum is looking for more volunteers to join its ranks of re-enactors.

The museum in Tipton Road, Dudley, also needs people to help behind the scenes at its 26-acre site.

The museum has a number of volunteer groups including the Black Country Motor Company maintaining the collection of vintage vehicles. See the website bcm.com/volunteer or call 0121 557 9643.



Nicholas Soames MP, right, with Afzal Amin and centre administrator Victoria Wakeman

Grandson of Sir Winston in visit

THE General Election will not overshadow the 70th anniversary of victory in Europe, the grandson of Sir Winston Churchill said on a visit to Dudley.

Sir Nicholas Soames acknowledged the timing of polling day, May 7, was 'inconvenient' for people who wanted to celebrate VE Day on May 8. But the world would not allow the election to stop it from marking the defeat of Adolf Hitler and the end of the Second World War in Europe, he said.

Conservative MP Sir Nicholas, the 67-year-old son of the wartime leader's youngest daughter Mary Soames, was visiting with Black Country-born former Army officer Afzal Amin, the Conservative candidate for Dudley North.

Speaking in the Churchill Shopping Centre, named after his grandfather, former armed forces minister and shadow defence secretary Sir Nicholas said: "It's inconvenient timing but that's the way it is and we won't let it stop us. I ran the last celebrations, for the 50th anniversary in 1995 and they are the most wonderful events, not only here but around the world."

Sir Nicholas presented a painting to the centre.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Town hall repair work on schedule

REPAIR work at Dudley Town Hall is on track to finish by the end of the month.

Loose plaster on the ceiling forced the venue to close in December with some shows being cancelled, moved or postponed.

Concerts and performances needed to be re-arranged or moved to alternative venues.

Wednesday evening dances, run by Fiona Bennett, have been moved to Dudley College.

Officials said work was progressing well and due to be completed on schedule.

Lions roar in to help responders

A LIONS club has selected the Black Country First Responders as its charity of the year.

Dudley Lions Club will be donating money to the organisation, volunteers who attend emergencies and are called out if they can reach a scene more quickly than the ambulance service. They receive no funding from the NHS or Government.

Responders usually cover an area within seven minutes of their home, backed by ambulance crews.

Talk on veteran of Light Brigade

THE life of a Black Country alderman who was a veteran of the Crimean War will be in the spotlight at a coffee morning on March 27.

A talk on John Kilvert will take place at Wednesday Museum and Art Gallery at 11am, admission £2.

Alderman Kilvert was the Mayor of Wednesbury in 1905 and took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Canal crafty to help Comic Relief

VISITORS to Dudley canal tunnel can make masks to raise money by taking part in craft activities in support of Comic Relief on Sunday.

Children can take part in the event organised by Dudley Canal Trust from 11.30am to 1.30pm. Call 0121 557 6265 or email info@dudleycanaltrust.org.uk to book.

Beer lovers meet

THE Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of the Campaign for Real Ale is holding its annual general meeting in the upstairs room at The Court House pub in New Street, Dudley, on March 30 at 8pm.

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Minister says 'green belt safe with us'

A MINISTER has insisted green belt land in Dudley is being protected.

Local Government Minister Brandon Lewis said the Coalition Government has reversed Labour measures that would have put the green belt under threat. He was responding to a question from Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who was seeking assurances that open green spaces would be protected.

Mr Lewis said: "As pledged in the Coalition agreement, this Government has safeguarded national green belt protection and increased protection of important green spaces. We have abolished the Labour government's top-down regional strategies which sought to delete the green belt in and around 30 towns and cities.

"I would note that the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Phase Two Revision Report published by the Government Office for the West Midlands in September 2009, was pushing for a number of adverse changes to green belt protection - that no doubt would have been implemented had the Labour Government not been ejected from office."

Mr Lewis added that councils now had more powers to protect the green belt.

Bathroom shower fire

A WOMAN suffered minor smoke inhalation after her shower caught fire. She had just got out of the shower at her home on Bishop's Walk in Halesowen when she noticed smoke coming from her bathroom.

Haden Cross fire station dispatched two fire engines.

Watch Commander Dan Griffiths said: "When the lady first noticed the fire she did the right thing by shutting the door, calling us and then exiting the property. Electric showers come with an isolation switch that we advise using in between showers."

Road safety bid

THERE is a move to improve safety on roads in Wollaston following a spate of crashes. Dudley Transport boss Councillor Khushid Ahmed said the authority was considering speed management measures. He added: "Our engineers are looking into this issue."

Fresh campaign to revive The Waterfront



Luxury flats are on the way at The Waterfront

MERRY Hill Shopping Centre bosses Intu have launched fresh efforts to find tenants for the nearby Waterfront development.

The company, which runs more than 20 shopping centres, including the Trafford Centre in Manchester, inherited the canal-side site when it acquired Westfield's half share of Merry Hill for £407.7 million last spring.

It is already planning to spend £20m on Merry Hill over the next three years, enlarging stores, creating more restaurants and attracting more big-name retailers. But it is also aiming to revamp the Waterfront.

Dudley Council has already launched the Dudley Business Investment Zone in a bid to fill up empty office space and create jobs at the Brierley Hill site, which comprises offices, retail and leisure premises and is soon to include 181 canal-side apartments as office block Point North is converted into The Landmark luxury flats.

Now, Intu has hired Halls Commercial to act alongside existing property agents Vail Williams to stimulate interest in The Waterfront.

Intu senior asset manager Nick Round said: "The Waterfront is a key part of our

ownership and it is our responsibility to ensure that we maintain and enhance the vibrant working community built around the marina."

The development comprises around 750,000 sq ft of offices and the agents are offering space from 600 sq ft up to 47,000 sq ft. There are around 2,000 parking spaces on site as well as bars, restaurants and a hotel. The Copthorne Hotel, HM Revenue & Customs, West Midlands Ambulance Service and about 40 businesses are in the area, including JD Wetherspoon and Virgin Media.

Call for owners to be told when pets killed on road

MPS from the Black Country have backed calls for the Highways Agency to identify pets killed on the roads and inform their owners.

It followed a 120,000 signature petition which sparked a debate in the Commons highlighting the plight of Yorkshire teacher Judy Devine whose dog, Harvey, was killed on the M62.

She spent £8,000 trying to find him only to be told his body had been recovered by officials within 20 minutes of his death.

There have been calls for a 'Harvey's Law' to bring back mandatory scanning of animals to see if they are microchipped following a death on the road, as happens in Cornwall and Devon.

Stourbridge MP Margot James told the Commons: "I lost a dog on the road when I was a child, a Great Dane called Max. I have never forgotten him, but at least we knew within 24 hours or less, which saved a lot of additional heartache."

Stourbridge MP Margot James told the Commons: "I lost a dog on the road when I was a child, a Great Dane called Max. I have never forgotten him, but at least we knew within 24 hours or less, which saved a lot of additional heartache."

Schemes can include bringing empty shops back into use, improving the appearance of a shopping area or kick starting an innovative business idea.

The money is available through the council's community forums with the latest round starting on Monday.

People can also discuss ideas or raise issues with councillors at forums which run at venues across the borough until March 24.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of the council, said: "The community forums are a great way for people to talk to us about some of the issues that need resolving in communities across the borough."

"There is funding available for people to kick start their own innovative community projects."

Family

"Pets, especially dogs and cats, are part of the family. That is the most important reason to get this matter rectified with the national Highways Agency and other relevant authorities."

Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, added: "None of my constituents' pets will be scanned in the event of such a tragedy but checks are still taking place in other parts of the country such as Cornwall and Devon."

"Those checks should be mandatory across the country. We need to do this for everybody."

Until 2012, it was mandatory for Highways Agency staff to scan collars to trace the owners.

The policy was scrapped following a spending review.

Pitch battle over hire price hike



Front Patrick Harley and fellow Conservative Mike Wood with players from High Acres and Old Lark football clubs

FOOTBALL coaches and players have called for plans to increase pitch hire costs across the borough by up to 40 per cent to be kicked into touch.

But league officials and teams have been told they should take over the management of their pitches.

Senior adult teams will see a fee hike from just over £500 per season to around £710 under new rises ratified by the council last week.

League officials and managers hope to force the council to rethink the

price rise before it is introduced in August.

Councillor Patrick Harley helps run High Acres Football Club in the Dudley and Cradley Heath Football League. The club play their matches at King George V Park, Wordsley.

Councillor Harley, leader of the Conservative group opposition, said the council would lose out if the rise caused teams to fold.

"They say the fees are the best in the Black Country. That is because

the facilities are awful," he said. "Showers in the changing rooms are lukewarm. They only come to mow the grass, paint the lines and take the goals down at the end of the season before throwing some seed down."

Leisure boss Councillor Hilary Bills said the council had been subsidising pitches but had to make savings. She added: "We have already made suggestions to them. If they try to manage them themselves they can get hold of more funding than the council could."

Council dim the lights to save cash

HUNDREDS more street lights can now be dimmed in Dudley.

Lamps across the borough have been fitted with new energy-saving lanterns as part of the plan to cut energy bills.

Now 21,100 of the council's 32,000 street lights can be controlled to help save energy and 14,500 of these can be dimmed.

Last year the council revealed plans to turn off lights after midnight in some areas from 2016 onwards.

It is estimated the move could save £100,000 during the 2016/17 financial year.

Young swimmers splash for charity

A SWIMMING club has raised £500 for charity with its latest event.

Brierley Hill Swimming Club made a big splash to raise money for CLIC Sargent for children with cancer in a sponsored swim.

More than 50 children aged four and upwards took part in two sponsored swim sessions at Dudley Leisure Centre, where the club meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Representatives of CLIC Sargent attended both sessions to thank the children.

Housing estates community event

A TENANTS' and residents' association are encouraging local people to get more involved in their estate by holding coffee morning.

Love Claycroft Tenants and Residents Association in Lye is hosting the open event on Monday from 9am to 10.30am at Lye Community Centre, Crosswalks Road. Visitors will get the chance to meet members and chat about the estates.

More workshops for spider phobics

PEOPLE with a fear of spiders can learn to overcome their fears at workshops at Dudley Zoo.

An additional date has been added to the programme due to popular demand. It will take place on March 28 in the Rainforest Suite from 3pm until 5pm. It comes other sessions filled up. Call (01384) 215313.

Three cars crash

POLICE and firefighters were called to deal with a three-car crash in Old Hill.

No one was injured in the smash in Garratts Lane shortly before 2pm last Wednesday near Bridge Street.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

STAND by your beds. At last, a bit of commonsense from the governing classes.

First of all, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles has told traffic wardens to give people 10 minutes leeway before hitting them with parking tickets. And now Dudley Council has announced it will remove two bus lanes from Halesowen. If it was up to me we would get rid of traffic wardens altogether.

Around 10 years ago Bridgnorth found itself without a traffic warden, and the town didn't collapse into anarchy. A few people parked on the pavement and the one-hour limit in the High Street was routinely ignored, but did it mark the end of civilisation? Hardly.

The money saved from getting rid of all the traffic wardens would pay for more police, who could deal with the small number of serious parking violations which put public safety in danger, while turning a blind eye to the ones that don't.

While we're about it, let's get rid of all bus lanes. I have nothing against buses, in the past week I have used them twice. What I don't accept is that boarding a vehicle which happens to have two floors and a staircase somehow makes me more virtuous than other road users. Let's be honest. The majority of people who use buses tend not to be in a hurry.

During my two journeys last week, the passengers broadly fell into one of two categories: retired people doing their shopping, and teenagers on their way back from the local comprehensive. The elderly folk didn't look to be in any sort of rush, I would say they probably enjoyed having time for a natter. The rowdy schoolkids, who made up the majority of the passengers, were definitely in no hurry to get to their destination early.

And me? Well I had taken the day off work to take my car into the garage. So I wasn't in a hurry either. However, the people in the surrounding cars and vans were in a hurry. People driving to and from work. Delivery drivers, white van men, truckers. The people whose work pays the taxes which subsidise the buses in the first place.

And they were stuck in the traffic queues while the bus glided through its designated lane, like a Communist Party official in the Zil Lanes of 1980s Moscow. Of course, the people responsible for the bus lanes don't see it like that. They doubtless take the view that by inconveniencing motorists, they make public transport more attractive. But do they really expect the washing machine repair man to start loading his tools onto the bus? How would they feel if the fishmonger started carting his wares up the stairs of the No. 7?

One of these days, the governing classes will realise that motorists are not some dissident group but just ordinary people going about their business.



The Miners Statue at Brownhills High Street's island



Historian Carl Chinn at the Hamstead Miners



The Davy Lamp miners memorial in Hednesford

Memorials keep mining pride alive

ADAM BURLING takes a look at the memorials that have helped to keep mining alive despite pit closures

THEY are monuments to a by-gone era when thousands of men toiled for long days in collieries across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

And though the mining industry has almost died out, memorials of all shapes and sizes are keeping its heritage alive.

Two are currently being planned in Staffordshire, as residents seek a way of paying tribute to the workers who spent their working lives down the pits.

And others have already been installed in Walsall Wood, Brownhills, Great Barr and Hednesford in recent years.

As the 36th anniversary of the end of the miners' strike was marked on Tuesday, the bitter dispute between Margaret Thatcher and the National Union of Mineworkers has been at the forefront of people's minds.

Communities were torn apart by the closures, with men who once had no trouble providing for their families suddenly struggling to make ends meet. Organisers say the memorials are giving villages and towns a sense of identity again.

The 55ft high replica pit head in Walsall Wood is believed to be the biggest mining memorial in the world.

Others bear the names of former pitmen, while the Davy Lamp memorial in Hednesford is surrounded by engraved paving slabs.

And there are also tragic tales lurking behind the fond memories, as scores of men died in accidents and disasters.

The desire to create a fitting tribute has also led to a dispute in Rugeley, with plans for a statue in the town delayed by a disagreement over the location.



The mining memorial in Walsall Wood, based just off Coppice Road

It has now been confirmed that the memorial will finally be unveiled on Globe Island in September.

The significance of mining to the Black Country and Staffordshire cannot be underestimated, with the Cannock Chase coalfields once supported 48 mines and the last, Littleton, shut in 1993. Only a pit wheel remains at the site now, in the shadow of the modern design of the Littleton Green Community School – providing a stark contrast between the area's past and future.

Council chiefs commissioned artist

Andy De Comyn to produce four 9ft sculpted figures for Rugeley, to commemorate 80 miners who were killed underground at Brereton and Lea Hall collieries.

And in Hednesford, the final of 3,500 bricks was laid at the Davy Lamp memorial a year ago.

With a museum also dedicated to the town's mining heritage, Hednesford has plenty of pride in the role it played in the industry.

In the early part of the 20th century there were seven pits working in the

area. But by 1975 only three collieries remained, providing employment for 5,200 men.

In December 1982 the last pit – West Cannock No.5 – known locally as the 'Tackeroo' ceased production.

Probably the most iconic of all the memorials in the Midlands is the 30ft steel-clad sculpture of a miner holding a lamp and pick axe that towers over Brownhills.

It was produced by artist John McKenna and has become a fixture on the landscape.

Mining was the main source of income for families in Brownhills until the last pit closed in the 1950s.

Brownhills was a hub of the industry, with at least 10 working pits there at its height.

The deaths of 144 men looms large over the history of Hamstead Colliery in Great Barr, where the memorial features an original coal tub on rails mounted on a brick plinth.

The worst accident was in March 1908 when a fire broke out in the pit, and though 250 men escaped, 25 perished – along with John Welsby, who was hailed a hero as he tried to save the others.

He was awarded an Edward VII medal and a local road, Welsby Avenue, was named after him.

For 100 years there was no visible memorial to the men who died, and the colliery as a whole.

But the Hamstead Miners Memorial Trust was set up in 2002 with the task of raising the necessary cash.

A replica of winding gear from the Walsall Wood colliery that stood close to the site, it was a part of a £40,000 project that also included sculptures of miners.

And it has attracted interest across the globe – achieving exactly what Mr Perry set out to do.

He said he wanted to create something to make people talk about the miners for generations to come. And it proves the links with our past are showing no signs of breaking.

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

"I'VE unblocked the logjam," declared David Cameron in the living room of the house he was visiting. "Blimey," I thought. "That's multi-tasking."

That is, until I realised he was on about the leaders' debates rather than the downstairs loo. We were in a showhome in Cannock where lots of people have made use of the coalition's Help to Buy programme.

It could be argued that if the biggest political kicking the Prime Minister got this week was about whether he wants to spend more time saying 'long term economic plan' on the telly, as opposed to the immigration figures, he's not doing that badly.

But it still didn't look particularly good for him that he only wants to go up against Ed Miliband during prime time once before May 7 and he wants five other party leaders there to dice each other in the crossfire.

So Mr Cameron reckons he has 'unblocked the logjam' by agreeing to a debate that has to happen before Parliament is dissolved on March 30.

Weary

It turns out that rather than debating Mr Miliband the Prime Minister would rather be spending time up here.

"Let's hold the debate before the campaign takes place because otherwise it takes all the life out of the campaign and I want to be in Cannock, in Stafford, in Cornwall, in Cumbria, in Norfolk, in Suffolk," he said.

"Now is the time to hold a debate and I have, as it were, unblocked the logjam by saying let's have a seven-corner debate, let's have it before the campaign starts."

That's right. Before the campaign starts. That's the campaign that's basically been going on since last summer.

So if you weren't already weary of the pledges, the warnings, the scaremongering and the one-upmanship, you soon will be.

□□□□

"Sometimes it seems that environmental challenges like global warming are so big we can't possibly do anything about them as individuals. Or we are so busy and stressed in our everyday lives that we don't have time to think about it, or to take action. But tackling environmental issues – from climate change to energy use, waste to transport – is important for our future and in our daily lives we can all be doing something to reduce the harmful impact of our actions on the environment."

So wrote Harriet Harman, deputy leader of the Labour party. This the same politician who came to the Black Country this week and drove around in a fossil-fuelled pink campaign minibus. And it is the same politician who then got a train back to London while her minibus drove off somewhere else.

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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Midwife show sparks nun memories

EVERY time that I watch the TV programme 'Call the Midwife', my memory goes back to my childhood.

I was born in Bloomfield Road, Tipton, and just up the road from us was a bike shop. My first memory was that we used to take accumulators there to be charged up but I cannot remember the name of the then owner.

Whoever it was, was followed by a man who lived in Sedgley name Jack Bodenham, who rode a scrambler motor bike. He was followed by Ron Coe, who used to travel to the shop from his home in Bushbury.

Ron used to work for Jack Hateley, and learned how to build frames from Jack. For many years, I owned a frame that was built by Ron, and it was only confined to the scrap bin a few years ago.

Two nuns used to bring their tricycles for maintenance at Ron's shop. I have asked lots of people if they know what convent they came from but no one knows. They used to travel from Bradley's Lane direction.

I would love to find out. Can anyone help please?

P COLE
Kingswinford

Hill needs two lanes

WELL done to Dudley Council on closing the bus lanes in Halesowen as they were causing congestion.

Now, how about putting Mucklow Hill back to two lanes as it used to be?

That is surely a congestion hotspot in the mornings, as the traffic is back down to nearly the bottom of the hill some mornings.

It is also regularly trailing back to the island at the B&Q junction, as motorists are trying to get back in the nearside lane past what used to be the MEB offices — only for the carriageway to go back to two lanes just past there.

The exhaust pollution must be horrendous for the residents at the top of the hill.

So, over to you Dudley council.

M GRAINGER
Halesowen

Filthy mess blights the hedgerows

I HAVE recently driven along Lutley Lane, Halesowen, on my way to Northfield via Illey, trying to take in the great views of our country with views of Clent Hills and along to Frankley Beeches.

What I really noticed were not the great views but the filthy mess along the hedgerows, littered with cans, wrappers, polythene bags, bottles, fast food containers, black bags of rubbish, etc.

What is the mentality of dumping rubbish in countryside... or anywhere. We have become a country with a great lack of respect, no pride, no care for our environment. What can be done about it?

Councils should be more vigilant, heavy fines for perpetrators, maybe the unemployed and those on benefits should do litter picks, giving something back in turn? Maybe there should be more education in schools on awareness. Only last week I filled a black bag of rubbish from my local wood — does anyone care anymore?

M HANKIN
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Time to end the council tax freeze

I MAY become unpopular with some people by voicing my opinion on the freeze of the council tax by Dudley MBC, but I am very much against it.

This is the fifth year it has been frozen and as each year has gone by we have seen spending on services cut and council staff jobs lost.

One only has to compare our facilities with those of some other boroughs to see what a second class area we have become.

If there was a small rise of three pounds or so a month — not even the cost of a pint of beer — I am sure that most people would not object, and those few pounds per household would add up

to quite a sum for the council to save some of our facilities — and not waste it on unnecessarily altering the Market Place yet again!

This rise would not affect the poorer members of our community as it would be covered by their housing benefit.

The rise and its results could make a big difference to our well-being and pride in our town.

The councillors should make this paramount when making the decision on rising or freezing council tax — and not concentrate on vote-catching and their own popularity.

S MATANO
Wall Heath

Backlash is unfair to OAPs

WHAT have we done to deserve this backlash? We went to work, provided homes for our kids without help from the state, only visited the doctor when absolutely necessary and still we seem to be blamed for the poor state of our once great Britain.

For years I have funded those who cannot work or will not work, whilst I go out to work come rain or shine.

I, and others of my generation deserve better in our latter years. We can no longer earn a living so please give us a rest.

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Accent put on regional tour of UK

Wolverhampton Women's Luncheon Club

AT the February meeting at the Lindens, Tetterhall Road, chairman Val Billings welcomed 74 member, two guests and speaker Derek Poulson.

The chairman commented on the good weather and the crocus bulbs coming out in Wolverhampton, showing that spring is on its way.

She said Grace before lunch was served of wild mushroom soup, breast of chicken with bacon and thyme and peach melba, followed by tea or coffee with mints.

She mentioned the visit to the National Arboretum on Wednesday, 22, when a tree will be planted at 3pm.

A guided tour of the site costs £3 each and husbands and friends are welcome.

The speaker, a Yorkshireman, gave his talk on "It's not what you say, but the way that you say it".

He said at the age of 15, he wanted to go on the stage and he moved to the south of England where he learned to speak differently.

Derek took the members on a tour of the UK and Ireland, changing his accent to suit the region and making everyone laugh all the way through and especially when he reached the West Midlands and spoke about Upper and Lower Gornal. He felt that the West Midlands accent is the closest to Ancient English.

He now lives in Stoke-on-Trent and spoke fondly of The Potteries.

The chairman thanked Derek and Maureen Hewitt gave the vote of thanks.

High standard from a competitive field



Winners Pam Booth-Jones and Tony Leech

Wolverhampton Bridge Club

PAM Booth-Jones and Tony Leech won the Mixed Pairs competition. Mike Barlow and Eileen Woolverton came second in a strong field of 26 players.

Chairman Ron Stevenson congratulated the winners and all players for the high standard of the competition and thanked the members who provided some delicious home baked cakes during the interval.

The Mixed Pairs competition, played on Sunday, March 1, is first in the club's annual programme of competitive bridge for pairs and teams.

Wolverhampton Bridge Club meets every weekday evening and Monday and Friday afternoons. Experienced players and beginners can join a range of social, competitive and learning bridge sessions at the well-adapted clubhouse at Shaw Park Business Village, Wolverhampton.

Details are on the website www.bridewebs.com/wolverhampton or call 01902 424422.

Minute's silence is held in tribute to former member

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 56 members and two visitors to the February meeting.

A minute's silence was observed for ex-member Mary Jones, who was in both the choir and drama group.

The federation reported problems with the annual lunch. It is proving difficult to find a suitable venue, and there has been a drop

Wollaston 'E' TWG

in members supporting this event. There was also disappointment in the lack of support for the carol service.

The speaker was a Mr Cochrane, who explained with the aid of slides, how both male and female convicts were transported to Botany Bay - now Sydney

Harbour - Australia, for the most trivial offences.

He said he had discovered one of his ancestors had suffered the ordeal of both the arduous voyage, and the strict regime imposed on prisoners upon arrival.

Raffle winners were Brenda Adkins and Wendy Crickard and competition prizes went to June Pardoe and Pat Archer.

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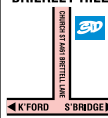
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Greedy bosses of roof firm conned customers

DIRECTORS of a roofing firm initiated a 'frenzy of commission-led greed' as they conned customers in the Black Country out of millions.

Alan Wilson, aged 54, and Christopher Wilkes, aged 45, the directors of Therma Seal (Thermal Coatings) UK, have been jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court for their roles in one of the largest ever fraud cases.

A third defendant, Julie Barrett, of Hewell Avenue, Bromsgrove, was found guilty on one count of fraud and cleared of nine others. She is due to be sentenced on April 1 and has been told she is likely to receive a community sentence.

Customers in Dudley and Stourbridge were targeted.

Wilson and Wilkes were running a company that had an £8.5m turnover and 2,700 customers during the period of the fraud between 2010 and 2012.

The duo made a number of bogus claims about a roof paint in leaflets. This included that it could make a heat saving of between 15 per cent and 40 per cent and reduce heat loss by 25 per cent but they knew that the information was false.

Sentence

Judge Martin Walsh said: "I am satisfied that both of you knew the claims made could not be substantiated. You embarked on a frenzy of commission-led greed and the imposition of the intended sentence will not only be a punishment, but deter any other perpetrators who might seek to con the public."

He said the defendants, who were found guilty of fraud by a jury, did not deliberately target the elderly, but a "consequence of the recruitment process" to get new customers was that



Bogus claims over paint has landed director Alan Wilson in prison

many of them were elderly, retired and vulnerable.

The pair had considerable experience of direct sales and had made 'grossly exaggerated' claims about the product. He said the company had traded fraudulently from the outset.

Charlene Sumnall, mitigating for Wilkes, of Tanworth Lane, Solihull, said the defendant had to break the news to his children that he was likely to go to prison.

She added: "It is not a fraud deliberately targeted at the elderly so Mr Wilkes could lead a wealthy lifestyle. He leads a modest lifestyle."

She said he apologised to all those affected by the fraud.



Sales representative Julie Barrett will be sentenced next month

Denis Barry, mitigating for Wilson, of Fazeley Road, Tamworth, said his client had a heart condition and had resigned as a director.

The pair were jailed for five years and disqualified from being company directors for eight years.

Following the hearing, Chris King, principle Trading Standards officer with Dudley Council, said: "The charges of fraudulent trading were a landmark case for us."

"We are very pleased with the result of this trial and we have seen significant custodial sentences for Mr Wilson and Mr Wilkes that reflects how seriously the court views this offence."

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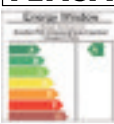
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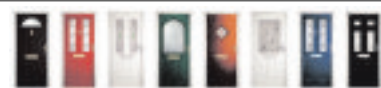
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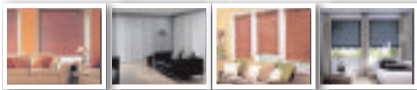
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Tributes to footballer who travelled the world



Passionate about fitness and sport, particularly football — Ron Corbett, second right at front, in an RAF team from the 1960s

**A FOOTBALL coach from
Dudley, whose love of the
beautiful game took him
around the world to train as-
piring players, has died at 76.**

Ron Corbett was passionate about sports from an early age becoming a boxing champion while still attending Dudley Grammar School. He died on February 26 at Russells Hall Hospital. His funeral will be held at Gornal Crematorium today (Thursday) at 9.40am.

Daughter Jacqui Crump said even though battling dementia, her father

still tried to keep himself fit. He was born on the Priory estate and as a teenager played for Wolves, West Bromwich Albion and Dudley Town.

During National Service he played for RAF and Combined Services football teams and was a semi-pro player during the 1960s at Kidderminster, Lye and Lower Gornal, before managing Brierley Hill Alliance and Oldswinford. He also had stints at Kidderminster Harriers as assistant manager and manager of Solihull Borough.

In the 1980s he coached in America, the Faroe Islands and spoke with fondness of his time coaching in Jamaica.



Former football coach Ron Corbett

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Face to face with rarely seen portraits at exhibition

THE great and good of Dudley's past will be in the spotlight in a new exhibition spanning 200 years Dudley Museum and Art Gallery.

More than 50 portraits ranging from explorer Sir John Franklin to Mary Stevens, wife of one of Stourbridge's greatest benefactors, will be on display in Face to Face, which opened at the attraction in St James's Road this week.

Some of the paintings have never been on public show while others are seldom seen on display.

Famous pieces in the collection include an oil painting of Mr and Mrs Bamfylde by JJ Zoffany, the renowned 18th century portraitist, as well as a lithograph of a dancer by Henri Matisse.

Exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin said: "The largest painting on display is a full sized portrait of Lord Northesk, the third in command of the fleet at the battle of Trafalgar by local artist Thomas Phillips.

"Phillips was a highly accomplished portraitist and a large number of his works are to be found in the National Portrait gallery.

"The museum has four of his paintings on display in this exhibition which include portraits of Dr Joseph Wainright, Sir John Franklin and Thomas Hawkes MP."

He added: "There are paintings of the great and good of Dudley, with some recognisable names and others which are now only familiar to local historians."

The exhibition runs until June 27. The museum is open 10am to 4pm Monday-Saturday and admission is free.



Dudley gallery exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin next to Stourbridge artist Brian Fletcher's self portrait

Singers tune up for concert with pupils

A POPULAR male voice choir will be taking to the stage for their latest concert in Dudley accompanied by primary school pupils.

The Gentlemen Songsters, based in Kingswinford, are preparing for the show to take place on Saturday, March 21. It will be held at St Mark's Church, in Vicarage Lane, off Pensnett High Street starting at 7.30pm.

The choir will be joined by pupils from Bromley Pensnett Primary School for the show. Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased from Sandra Parsons at church or by calling (01384) 839251.

Charities

The Gentlemen Songsters regular fundraising concerts saw them bring in £4,000 for the Mayor of Dudley's charities this year. Money will be split between Guide Dogs and Action Heart charities.

The choir, which won the Mayor's Award at the Mayor's Civic Awards in 2013, also presented a £2,500 cheque to the Royal British Legion at a civic reception in the Mayor's parlour earlier this year.

£321k bill for policing protesters from EDL

POLICING a recent EDL protest in the West Midlands cost taxpayers £321,000.

Hundreds of officers from across the country were called in as more than 600 members of the far right organisation descended on the town on February 7.

Some 70 shops closed for the day due to a fear of a repeat of the violence and vandalism that occurred in the town during an EDL protest in 2010.

This time 30 people were arrested on the day, which also saw an opposition protest from the Unite Against Fascism group.

From the £321,000 policing cost, £147,000 was spent on bringing officers from other forces and £174,000 went on planning and operational costs.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said he was worried about the wider impact the march in Dudley had on policing across the region.

"Aside from the considerable cost, events like the one in Dudley make it much harder for us to deliver non-emergency policing during those periods," he said at a board meeting.

Duty

"West Midlands Police has a duty to deliver policing for such events and it is our responsibility to keep the community safe. What disappoints me most is how such events divert resources away from community policing."

Assistant police and crime commissioner Councillor Judy Foster said: "I was concerned at the costs placed on West Midlands

By Dominic Bareham

Police due to the EDL protest in our town that is why I have asked the force to give the public these figures. Keeping the community safe is the police's responsibility and they did an excellent job of ensuring that people were kept safe whilst the protest was going on.

"What I find frustrating though is the heavy costs that protests like these have on our police force and the knock-on effects for businesses in Dudley."

"Most of the people protesting were bussed in from outside the area but have heaped costs onto our local police force and impacted upon businesses in our town."

The EDL group's anti-mosque protest took place outside the Council House on Priory Road, where the 45-minute demonstration was held. A ring of police kept the EDL apart from the 50 members of a counter-demo in Castle Street.

Dudley Council had to pay £25,000 to put up and manage barriers, as well as cleaning up afterwards.

RSPCA call for help to find a cruel cat killer

A CAT was found hanged from a window frame on a derelict snooker club in Pensnett.

The grim discovery was made by a member of the public who alerted RSPCA inspectors to the building in High Oak, Pensnett.

A cord noose had been tied around the neck of the ginger cat and then around the window frame.

RSPCA inspector Vicki Taylor said: "There were scratch marks on the wall and the cat's claws were worn down and his pads were bloody so he would have been struggling to free himself for some time."

"You just can't imagine the pain and distress this poor animal went through before he died."

The cat was found at about 2pm on Friday, February 27, but it is believed he may have been there for more than 24 hours. Anyone with information should contact the RSPCA on 0300 123 8018.

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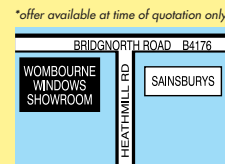
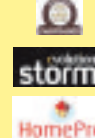
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Awards to recognise carers for hard work and generosity

CARERS who look after others will themselves be the focus when an awards ceremony is held in their honour this summer.

In Dudley alone there are 38,000 carers so the charity WeLoveCarers, based at Brierley Hill, will be celebrating their work with the awards bash. The night will see prizes presented to carers who look after parents, children or a spouse who may have a disability or condition.

The first awards ceremony was held last year, in which 12 people received a glass award made by at The Glasshouse College in Stourbridge. Prizes were given in categories including Young Carer of the Year, Care of an Adult, Care of a Child and a Support Group award.

WeLoveCarers' chief executive Marc Carter said the event will be

held at the charity's Insight House HQ on June 12. He said: "We are doing this to raise awareness of the carers and of our charity."

Mr Carter described the awards night as an opportunity for carers to celebrate their achievements and enjoy entertainment and food.

The charity provides support for carers, including groups and information sessions, and carers can drop in for a cup of coffee and a chat.

However, the organisation does not receive any financial support from the Government and relies instead on money raised through a coffee lounge at the HQ, as well as revenue from hiring out rooms at the building for conferences, wedding receptions and other events.

Nominations have to be in by May 1, phone 01384 483708 for a form.



Get nominating — Marc Carter and Loraine Stockton of WeLoveCarers with forms for potential award winners

£2m to expand the services at hospital

UP to £2 million will be spent expanding services at a Black Country hospital.

Bosses at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust want to offer a wider range of clinics and facilities at Rowley Regis Hospital.

They say it will mean more people can get regular treatment closer to home rather than having to travel to Sandwell Hospital or Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

A consultation is under way with residents to find out what services they would like to be available at the site in Moor Lane.

Ideas put forward so far include a pharmacy, mid-wifery services, such as antenatal and postnatal clinics, and respiratory therapy.

Improved gym facilities and space for support groups to help patients and families have also been suggested.

Chief executive Toby Lewis said up to £3m had been spent redeveloping the hospital during the past two years and now the trust expected to invest a further £1m to £2m by 2016.

Action call after body bungle at MEP funeral

ANSWERS were being demanded after the wrong body was cremated at the funeral of West Midlands MEP Philip Bradbourn.

Mr Bradbourn, who was born in Tipton and lived in Wolverhampton, died in December at Sutton Coldfield's Good Hope Hospital after a battle with cancer.

His funeral took place in January at Wolverhampton's Bushbury Crematorium. However, the man who was cremated was in fact Philip Bradburn, who had passed away at University Hospital Birmingham before Christmas.

Both men's bodies went to Central England Co-operative Funeralcare mortuary but the wrong body was released for cremation at Bushbury on January 16.

A second funeral took place last month. On Monday this week, senior politicians including communities secretary Eric Pickles and transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin gathered at Wolverhampton's St Peter's Collegiate Church for a memorial service.

The 63-year-old, who was not married, was diagnosed with bowel cancer shortly after being re-elected to the European Parliament in May last year.

Investigation

Fellow Tory West Midlands MEP Anthea McIntyre said: "I was shocked that this could have happened. There must be an investigation.

"I find it hard to believe and I feel terribly sorry for anyone who knew the other person, as well as those close to Phil."

Mr McLoughlin said: "I have known Phil for 30 or 40 years. We were in the West Midlands Young Conservatives together so we go back a long way.

"We also both contested the Wolverhampton South East seat, me in 1983, and Phil in 1992.

"He was a stalwart of the Conservative Party in this area and I was very sad to hear of his death."

Heart of England Foundation Trust, which runs Good Hope Hospital, said it was carrying out a full investigation into a recent incident, involving two people with similar names, as a result of which the wrong deceased patient was cremated.



Euro MP Philip Bradbourn

Services have been held for both of the deceased.

Dr Andrew Catto, executive medical director and interim deputy chief executive, said: "This is an incredibly distressing situation and we are very sorry that this has happened. We are carrying out a full and urgent investigation between all the parties involved. This is a rare incident and we are offering support to those close to the deceased.

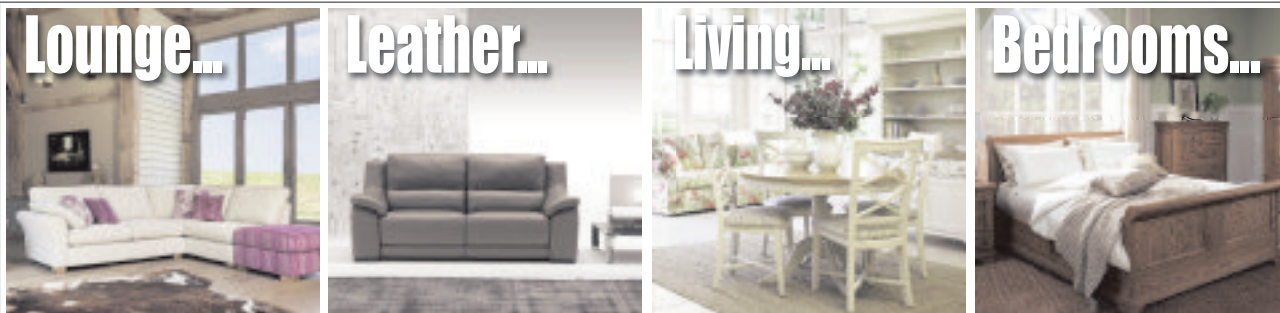
"Once the Trust became aware, it acted immediately. We are committed to finding out precisely what happened and reducing the possibility of it happening again.

"This occurred in spite of the fact that mortuary procedures conform to nationally defined standards and are subject to periodic audit.

"We are committed to supporting the request for privacy in this matter from those close to the deceased."

A spokesman for Central England Co-operative Funeralcare said: "The Society's Funeralcare operation provides services to a number of hospitals within the Birmingham area, but it is not our policy to comment on behalf of any of these organisations.

"The Society is supporting one of our partners in a full and open an investigation, but is not able to comment further while the investigation is ongoing."



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£800k to be spent on care home

AROUND £800,000 will be spent upgrading a former council-run care home, its new operators announced.

New Bradley Hall care home, in Kingswinford, is now being run by Black Country Housing Group.

Dudley Council said it could no longer afford to run the care home, which looks after 31 elderly residents, and allowed the housing group to step in.

The care home was earmarked for closure, prompting a four year campaign and 5,000-strong petition and public meetings to keep it open.

Staff will transfer from the council to Black Country Housing Group and the current residents will stay.

Councillor Dave Brannwood, in charge of adult and community services, said he hoped it would bring 'peace of mind' to residents and their families.

Tournament at Eagle Park

A SEVEN-A-SIDE tournament for footballers with disabilities is being held in Wall Heath this summer.

The event being staged by Kewford Eagles FC will take place at their ground, Eagle Park, Wall Heath, on June 7. The new ground was officially opened by Sir Trevor Brooking last April.

There will be competitions for both adults and under-16s teams.

Email jw004h5501@blueyonder.co.uk for further details.

FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD AND WALL HEATH

Residents celebrating as quarry closes after 75 years

RESIDENTS are celebrating after winning a battle against a quarry near their homes after several years of campaigning.

Those living near to the Enville Road Quarry in Wall Heath, which has been in operation since the 1930s, have been successful in preventing the quarry from extending its operating licence.

The quarry, operated by FG Davis Contractors, will close at the end of April.

The campaign was led by Councillor Dave Tyler with a group of residents.

One campaigner, Tim Williams, who lives in nearby Oasthouse Close, said: "It was a hard-fought battle and we are just glad the quarry is now closing."

"Many residents complained about the problems caused by the facility, trucks would dirty the roads and leave aggregate behind."

Dirty

"There was noise and there was no point having your windows cleaned because the day after they would be dirty again."

The quarry originally opened in the 1930s and had a licence to operate as a quarry for fifteen years. Campaigners said the contractors would regularly apply for extensions which were granted despite objections from residents.

When the application was

By Charlie Benton

put forward 18 months ago, it was recommended that the extension not be granted and FG Davis were given until this spring to wind up operation.

The land belongs to FG Davis, who will be required to restore the site by installing fences and greenery.

Councillor Tyler said he had been challenging the quarry since 1997 but the battle could not have been won without the support of the local community.

"The overriding thing is the quality of life for residents," Councillor Tyler said. "With the heavy goods vehicles gone, it will be a much more pleasant area for residents."

Councillor Tyler said vehicles and equipment will have to be off site by April 30.

FG Davis declined to comment.



Landlady Coral Smith with manager Sam Dainter and Councillor Patrick Harley at the pub

Fighting to stop store on car park

THE landlady of a popular venue says she will fight any move to build a convenience store on the pub car park

The Old Court House, in Kingswinford, has been listed with several other pubs as a potential site for a Co-op by New River Retail. The company bought more than 230 pubs from Marston's and announced plans for stores at some of them.

Landlady Coral Smith said: "The pub is owned by Marston's. They approached me and said they were considering the site and asked me not to contest it. I told them I was not happy and would fight the proposal. It will kill my business. On Sunday my car park is totally full, I need every one of those spaces."

A petition in support of Mrs Smith has got 1,500 signatures and backing from Councillor Patrick Harley.

A spokesman for New River Retail said as there was no formal application.

Songsters in harmony for charities

A CHOIR based in Kingswinford made a £4,000 donation to the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir presented a cheque to Councillor Margaret Aston. The money will be split between Guide Dogs and Action Heart charities.

The choir, which won the Mayor's Award in 2013, also presented £2,500 to the Royal British Legion at a civic reception in the Mayor's parlour. Councillor Aston said: "I am delighted that the Gentlemen Songsters were able to make such a generous donation. This money will be a huge help to the two charities."

The choir raised the money with concerts at Dudley Town Hall and Brierley Hill Civic Hall. Chairman Keith Moss said: "We're grateful to everyone who came along and supported us."

Brewery steps up production

A BREWERY will expand to meet an increasing demand for its beers.

Pensnett-based Black Country Ales has taken a unit on the Pensnett Trading Estate in Kingswinford to free up storage and office space at its brewery at the back of The Old Bull's Head in Lower Gornal.

Director Angus McMeeking, who started the business in 1999, said that it would enable a fourth fermenting vessel to be installed.

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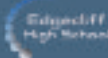


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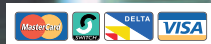
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COMPETITION

Classic chance for close-up of 'priceless rust'

HUNDREDS of polished classic cars, restoration projects and barn finds made up of 'priceless rust' are set to appear at Birmingham's NEC soon as the Practical Classics Restoration and Classic Car Show returns to the West Midlands.

Organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 45 lucky readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

Around 500 classic cars are expected to be on display with 100 car clubs revealing their ongoing and completed restoration projects.

There will be a trio of restoration showcases with the grand final of the Restorer of the Year and the Pride of Restoration, completed by enthusiasts in their home garages and 'Epic Restorations' completed by some of the most skilled craftsmen in the UK.

There will be the UK's biggest display of barn finds in the Heritage Barn Find showcase with around 25 vehicles, found in various states of repair.

Celebrity guests include the Wheeler Dealers Mike Brewer and Edd China, and Car SOS' Fuzz Townshend as well as Red Dwarf's Chris Barrie.

There will be car parades, a 48-hr restoration and classic game shows, with great prizes up for grabs. Expert advice will also be on offer.

If you're more about driving than restoring, take a Dream Ride with the Sporting Bears – a 10-mile ride as passenger in one of the cars from the Dream Rides Garage in exchange for a donation to charity. Silverstone Auctions will be back with its Restoration Sale.



Chance to see all variety of cars



HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets simply answer the following question.

Who runs the Restoration Sale?

Send your answers (postcard only) with full address and contact number to Classic Cars Competition, Chronicle Editorial, 52-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Tuesday, March 17. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

*Ticket prices have been frozen so to book tickets and for the latest updates, visit www.necrestoration-show.com

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Officers failed to help man dying outside police station

Grieving family¹⁷ say 'more could have been done'

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 12, 2015

Golf club's pro to coach at the Open



Dudley Golf Club pro Jamie Cundy is returning to St Andrews to coach at the Open Championship

A GOLFER is looking forward to rubbing shoulders with some of the game's biggest stars after being chosen to coach at the Open Championship.

Jamie Cundy will be heading to the prestigious tournament at St Andrews, the only one of golf's majors which held on British soil, in the summer. The 46-year-old professional, who joined Dudley Golf Club, based in Rowley Regis, last September, will coach spectators during free sessions as the top players compete for the Claret Jug.

Mr Cundy has competed in regional tours during almost three decades playing the sport. It will be the third consecutive year he has coached at the Open. He said: "Tim Henman came up for a lesson, but he was pretty good so he didn't need much teaching."

The father-of-two from Edgbaston added: "It is an amazing experience. Last year at Hoylake in Liverpool we saw some of the pros arrive in the evening and bumped into Robbie Williams and George Clooney in the bar."

Rogue landlord hit with big bill from tribunal

A ROGUE landlord who fraudulently received housing benefits for his property has been handed a bill of nearly £3,500.

Latif Rehman has been ordered to pay the money back to Dudley Council.

It comes after the local authority successfully made a rent repayment order application to a housing tribunal in response to Rehman's prosecution for being an unlicensed landlord last year.

A year ago Dudley magistrates landed Rehman, of Lordwood Road, Birmingham, with £12,000 court costs in relation to his property at 160 Wolverhampton Street in Dudley.

The additional £3,483

through the tribunal take his total costs to more than £15,000.

Council bosses hope it will act as a warning to landlords to ensure they are appropriately licensed and carry out their duties responsibly.

Last February Rehman had pleaded guilty to 14 offences of failing to comply with the Housing Act 2004. He was fined £6,000 for not being licensed and £400 each for the remaining 13 offences. He was also asked to pay £725 in costs and a £120 victim surcharge, making a total of £12,045.

The offences included failing to ensure that fire escapes were not obstructed.

POLICE officers failed to help a man who was dying on a bus parked outside Wolverhampton Police Station, an inquest heard.

Tony Jones had been taken ill on the double decker travelling from Dudley to Tettenhall when it diverted to the main city centre station in Bilston Street on the evening of October 17.

Police finally came out of the station as paramedics from two ambulances tried unsuccessfully to save 28-year-old Mr Jones, of Gill Street, Netherton, who was certified dead at the scene within an hour of the bus stopping outside the police station.

Mr Jones, who had been drinking and taken drugs, was certified dead at the scene.

Black Country coroner Mr Zafar Siddique concluded it was a drugs and

By John Scott

alcohol-related death and suggested it was unlikely the outcome would have been different if police had intervened sooner.

Mr Jones had slumped forward in his seat at the back of the double decker after being seen to drink beer from a can on October 17, the Smethwick hearing was told.

Driver Mr Ravinder Kumar stopped the bus at Fighting Cocks to check on the 28-year-old but got no response.

He told the inquest: "I was told he was drunk, thought he might be violent and decided to go straight to the police station."

Mr Kumar asked passing Special Constable Stefan Jones in the foyer of Bilston Street police station in Wolverhampton city centre if somebody could get 'a drunk off his bus'.

The special constable then went

into a room where 14 officers from the business neighbourhood team were being briefed about a new terrorist threat and asked if anybody could deal with the man on the bus.

Pc Darren Neville, who was among the officers, explained: "I told him we were in a briefing and the response team would have to deal with it. All 14 of us would have been out from that office if we had known it was an emergency."

The deceased had two-and-a-half times the drink-drive limit and traces of heroin and sleeping pills in his blood, said pathologist Dr Manel Mangalika who estimated the combination could have caused death within half an hour.

Coroner Mr Zafar Siddique concluded that it was unclear if an earlier intervention would have made any difference to the outcome.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating.

THE family of a man who died on a bus outside Wolverhampton police station, with the officers inside failing to come to his aid, today said 'more could have been done'.

Police and station staff did not come to help 28-year-old Tony Jones (see story left), who was slumped unconscious on the Dudley-to-Tettenhall bus parked outside the main city centre base in Bilston Street.

His family said 'all we are left with is ifs and buts'.

Sister Stacey Law, a 37-year-old mother of one, said: "More could have been done."

The police were all first aid trained — if just one of them had gone out they might have kept him breathing a little bit longer and given the paramedics more of a chance of saving him.

"I am not saying that this would have made a difference to the final outcome but at least we would have had the satisfaction of knowing that everything possible had been done to save him."

"All we have is ifs and buts. The incident was not even properly logged by the police."

Troubled

Mr Jones, who died on October 17, was from Gill Street, Netherton. His other sister, 27-year-old Sara Hart from Upper Gornal said he was 'one of a kind'.

"He loved his family," she said. "But he had a troubled life and did not seem able to cope with the outside world like the rest of us. We were all quite close to Tony and helped him where we could but he would just go off and do his own thing."

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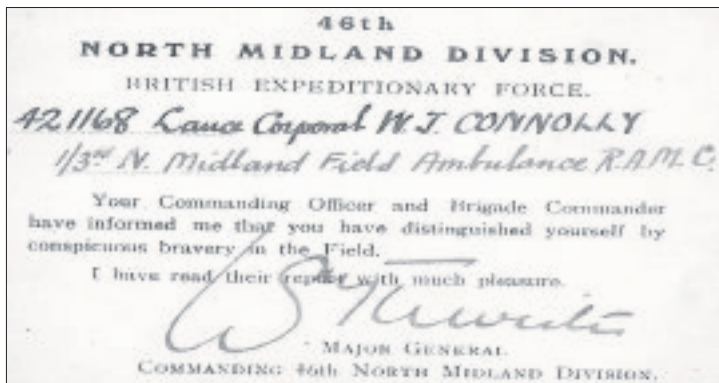
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William, with his Military Medal, and Lillian after he was injured



The postcard from Major General Thwaites, mentioning the medic's conspicuous bravery



L/Cpl Connolly with his wife, Lillian, during the Great War

Army medic was pride of town

THE 137th Staffordshire Brigade made a vital and momentous contribution to the defeat of the Germans in the First World War when it broke the much-vaunted and formidable Hindenburg Line on the St Quentin Canal at Bellelisse.

This was the last German defensive barrier on the Western Front and it was stormed by soldiers drawn mostly from in and around Wolverhampton, Walsall, Burton-on-Trent and Hanley.

That victorious Brigade belonged to the 46th North Midland Division. It was one of the 14 peace-time divisions of the Territorial Force, which had been organised in 1908 with the aim of training part-time soldiers for home defence in the event of war.

As for the 137th Staffordshire Brigade it was made up of four battalions: two each from North and South Staffordshire. The 5th South Staffordshire Regiment had its headquarters and four companies at Walsall, with other companies at Bloxwich, Hednesford, Handsworth and Wednesbury; the 6th battalion was based in Wolverhampton, where it had three companies, with others in Willenhall, Sedgley, Darlaston, Bilston and Tettenhall. Its main recruiting

MEMORY LANE

Report by Carl Chinn

centre was at the Drill Hall in Stafford Street, Wolverhampton. The Brigade was made up not only of infantrymen and gunners but also of engineers and medics, who belonged to the Field Ambulance of Royal Army Medical Corps.

Among the Wolverhampton men of the 1/3rd North Midland Field Ambulance was Lance Corporal William J Connolly, Army number 421168. He was actively involved in the final months of the war, which began in March 1918 when General Ludendorff launched the German Spring offensive as a last attempt to gain victory.

Its initial successes were dramatic and demoralising, but after the Germans were finally repulsed in their attempts to capture Amiens, Ludendorff shifted his attacks to the north and the Ypres Salient in Flanders. In the Battle of Lys, his troops made significant gains but a final drive to capture the Channel ports was repulsed on April 29.

With the battle still raging, the next evening L/Cpl Connolly was the duty NCO at an advanced dressing station near to Gorre, a hamlet just to the east of Bethune that had been

turned into a support post. That night and into the next day, it was heavily bombed with mustard gas shells by the enemy. Distinguishing himself with conspicuous bravery, L/Cpl Connolly was awarded the Military Medal on August 30. The citation read that he 'remained at duty, despite incessant vomiting, till he could neither see or stand. His courage and devotion to duty was a good example to the men of the unit, and to the gassed men of other units who were passing through the dressing station'.

Having lost much of his sight, the valorous Wulfrunian was eventually moved to Bellahouston Hospital in Glasgow. Here he was visited by his wife of six months, Lillian, from whom he had been parted two days after their wedding.

After his recovery, Bill Connolly returned to Wolverhampton and was presented with 'a beautiful gold pocket watch' which his granddaughter Elizabeth Thompson is proud to have.

Elizabeth is keen to know if this watch 'was presented at a special ceremony and whether any other Wolverhampton men won medals and were given such a gift by the town'. She explains that before the Great War, her grandfather was 'a skilled Art Metal Worker, having served as an apprentice with F.J.J Gibbons from July 22, 1907 to April 23, 1911'. Elizabeth remembers that because of the mustard gas, her grandfather's 'chest and lungs were badly damaged'.

She adds: "His eyesight was also impaired and I believe that he was the first person to have a corneal graft operation at Wolverhampton and West Midlands Eye Infirmary." This came about because in 1942, Bill had a piece of grit removed from his left eye at the Infirmary. During the examination of his eye it was discovered that there was something else seriously wrong with his eye - the mustard gas had badly affected his cornea.

Bill began to go blind as his right eye was also impaired and then in 1951 a young German went to the Infirmary suffering from a tumour. However, the cornea remained healthy and after his eye was removed he gave permission for it to be grafted onto Bill's left eye.

Then the doctors turned their attention to Bill's right eye. Then in December 1952 another German walked into the Infirmary. He had to have his eye removed but also helped the Englishman. A few days later Bill had an operation and for several days afterwards lay in bed with his eyes covered in bandages until a nurse did not replace them in quite the usual way.

In his words, Bill 'took a sly peep' and was filled with great joy. He could see to the end of the room 'like a brilliantly lit theatre. The wheel had gone full circle. The debt had been repaid in full. The Germans who had deprived him of his sight had given him back his sight'.



William Connolly in his uniform

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Police launch recruitment drive for 200 constables

Gym in a real spin to help the hospice



With the collection buckets are Jess Day-Bradley and Ffynona Stanley in the Trident Shopping Centre, Dudley

CUSTOMERS and staff at a Dudley gym got into a spin for a good cause when they took part in a spin-a-thon in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice.

The teams cycled for more than 13 hours when they held two community days last month at Active4Less in Trident Shopping Centre.

Organisers also held a bucket collection in the centre. Active4Less director Julie Ryan said: "It was a fun event. It went really well."

"We really felt that we were doing something worthwhile for the community."

"The young representative from Acorns certainly enjoyed trying out the spin bikes for the first time. The riders cycled solidly for three hours."

The club's instructors Jess Day-Bradley, Ffynona Stanley and Sham Stanley also took part in the event.

"We are independently owned with an ethos to support local community projects and charities," added Mrs Ryan.

Driver has lucky escape after railings crash

A DRIVER escaped with just a cut finger despite his car crashing and becoming impaled on metal railings in Stourbridge.

The car also demolished two garden walls in Envile Street, Wollaston, in the early hours accident last week.

The incident has prompted pleas to improve safety on the street near Katie Fitzgerald's pub opposite the junction with Mable Road.

Fire crews from Stourbridge and Brierley Hill attended following a call from police. Metal railings smashed through the driver side windows of the car, narrowly missing the motorist.

Resident Kevin Woodward said he was woken up by the accident and saw the aftermath.

"I've only had the wall rebuilt by the council a few days ago and now it is damaged again," he said.

"There have been accidents down here before. We want the council to have a look at it."

Councillor Barlow said he had emailed Dudley Council transport officers to urge them to look at introducing safety measures.

Stourbridge firefighters at the scene tweeted that the driver had been 'lucky to escape' the stricken Nissan Micra.

WEST Midlands Police has launched the drive for 200 new constables with a three-week recruiting window opening later this month.

The successful applicants will start training in November as the second batch of a total of 450 officers announced by former Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones before his death last year.

The first 200-strong intake have been posted to police stations after completing their 18-week training programme.

They will remain as probationary officers alongside more experienced staff for a further 18 months.

More than 4,000 people applied for those jobs and the force is bracing itself for a similar rush this time.

Chief Inspector Kevin Doyle, in

By John Scott

charge of the recruitment drive, said: "Before this started in February last year, the force had experienced a five-year freeze. The new application process continues to search for fresh, new and diverse recruits."

Impressed

"We have been very impressed with the calibre of the candidates from last year's intake who have far exceeded our expectations and raised the bar high."

"Policing is challenging and rewarding. As a constable you will get to learn new skills and meet new people. As well as reducing crime, you will help to reduce the fear of crime by providing reassurance, inspiring con-

fidence and really making a difference to people's lives."

Those interested can formally apply during a three-week period beginning on March 23 but are encouraged to register interest now online. Those chosen will need to complete two years as a probationary officer.

West Midlands Police said potential applicants should have a passion for public service and a desire to make a difference in the region's communities.

Other attributes being sought are good communication skills, calm, confident personalities, problem solving and an ability to easily build relationships, be a team player and respect other people.

The force is specifically aiming to increase the number of black and minority ethnic officers to better reflect the communities it serves.

Big Switch set to save £300 on energy bills

RESIDENTS who signed up for a new energy scheme look to save an average of almost £300 per home on their bills, say the boss of Dudley Council.

The Big Switch has now closed and following an auction between energy companies the average savings have been announced.

The council partners for the auction with IChooser, the UK's leading expert in collective energy switching.

A total of 536 households registered with the scheme. It was combined with a number of other similar initiatives across the UK to create a collective of 30,000 households, led by over 100 councils.

In total 85 per cent of Dudley borough house-

holds who registered for the auction will save on their energy bills. The average saving per household will be almost £300.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council, said: "The two winning suppliers for the latest Big Switch are E.ON and Scottish Power who will supply a range of energy contracts. All the tariffs offered are market leading and exclusive to scheme members. These rates are not available direct from the suppliers or via price comparison services. The average savings per household really will help our residents."

Those who registered will receive a personal offer.

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Revolution in denture provision

A CHAMPION for denture wearers, Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) has spent more than ten years campaigning to "break the taboo over false teeth and prove that high-quality dentures can indeed be nothing short of life-changing."

Evangelical about what new-generation denture prescriptions can achieve, he says the palette of solutions to deliver a more youthful, engaging smile has never been so great, with traditional, high-quality handmade-on-the-premises prosthetics; suction diaphragm dentures; and implant-retained over-dentures.

"People have come to us with ill-fitting teeth, sunken cheeks and

pinched lips and we have been privileged to transform their looks, providing teeth that not only are aesthetically pleasing and hugely functional, but also successfully support facial structures just like their real teeth once did. It can take years off people."

Can dentures ever be glamorous? "Emphatically, yes," adds Steven.

Strident advances in technology, improved materials and revised clinical procedures are all helping "to drive the denture revolution forward and indeed introduce a real sense of natural-looking glamour to what can be accomplished," he says.

Suction solution is this the answer for you?

A CUTTING-EDGE development that helps to resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353, who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley, and other clinics across the region, says the invention has the potential to resolve all-too-common denture stability issues.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, says: "In recent times we have seen, what I can describe only as strident clinical steps forward, with implant-retained over-dentures, 'teeth-in-a-day' implant procedures and suction solution dentures, all coming into main-stream dentistry."

"We also have clever injection moulding



The Ultra Suction system is available for both upper and lower dentures.

technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and our clinical solutions have never been so appealing.

"Implant dentistry as a resolve for stabilisation issues is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference. The Ultra Suction

prosthetics system offers a possible alternative clinical solution.

"The beauty of this affordable technology is that it can deliver for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the invasive clinical procedures required for implant work."

Lower dentures can often be troublesome when stability is compromised by shrinking gums and bone erosion – all part of the natural ageing process. Ill-fitting dentures create painful friction problems on gums and not least, can be a regular source of embarrassment.

Reduction

Steven adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can improve speech and taste."

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another 'tool' in our commitment to always try to deliver outcomes greater than patient expectations."



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Rocker Noel is flying high again

Album Reviews

By Leon Burakowski

MAYBE the title *Chasing Yesterday* is Noel Gallagher's re-tort to those who accuse him of recycling great sounds from rock's past, be that *The Beatles*, *Mod* or *Glam* rock.

Whatever, the second album, on his Sour Mash label, from **Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds** is his best work since 2002 Oasis album *Heathen Chemistry*.

It opens with *Riverman*, a Paul Weller-like title for a Weller-like song, then unleashes an absolute corker *In The Heat Of The Moment*, which rings bells literally and figuratively as a reminder of prime Oasis.

The *Girl With X-Ray Eyes* is a Beatles-ish stadium pleaser and *Lock All The Doors* is a guitar-grinding thriller.

Most interesting is the jazzy psychedelic chugger *The Right Stuff* (the sort of song the Gallaghers would once have dismissed as 'space jazz') and funky rocker *The Mexican*.

You Know We Can't Go Back has a satisfying jangle and the soaring closer *Ballad Of The Mighty I* features former Smiths guitarist Johnny Marr for a double dose of Mancunian guitar brilliance.

A deluxe version of the album features three extra new tracks and a remix of *In The Heat Of The Moment*.

Liverpudlian X Factor runner-up **Rebecca Fergusson** was one of the show's more interesting finds with a smoky vocal that suggested classic jazz and soul vocalists, and the chance to hear that kind of voice in contemporary setting. So at first *Lady Sings The Blues* seems a backward step for the singer, who is signed to Simon Cowell's Syco label.

Surely the singer is on a hiding to nothing performing songs by the inimitable Billie Holiday, to whom she has been compared. However, Fergusson acquits herself well with a more soulful take on these classic songs, such as *Embraceable You*, *That Ole Devil Called Love* and *God Bless The Child*, recorded at LA's legendary Capitol Studios. It is classy easy listening and Fergusson wisely doesn't attempt a cover of Holiday's most iconic, and chilling, song *Strange Fruit*.



Noel Gallagher — his best work since 2002's *Heathen Chemistry*

Dreamface (EML) is a seething album of alternative metal from powerhouse Liverpool trio **Elevant**, who contrast the hard riffing with acoustic guitar interludes on their second album. Listen if you like Royal Blood, Muse or Queens of the Stone Age. Hawkwind-like howler *Nothing* is a highlight.

Northern Ireland's **The Answer** rock back with **Raise A Little Hell** (Napalm Records), traditional swaggering heavy rock with fancy fretwork guitar solos and sore throated vocals.

They'll give Birmingham Institute in Digbeth a good rocking on March 20.

Only a year on from their debut album *Down Like Gold*, Isle of Wight's **Champs** (brothers Michael and David Champion) are fine tuning their melancholy pop sound on **Vamala** (Play It Again Sam).

Michael's vocals have a hint of Robin Gibb and their songs a slightly other-worldly feel, like *Crowded House* recorded by Joe Meek.

Enjoyment of **The Slow Show** entirely depends on what you make of singer Rob Goodwin's mannered vocals, kind of Lou Reed meets Leonard Cohen.

The Mancunian band make a moody meditative sound on **White Water** (Haldern Pop Recordings), like Elbow with a hangover.

Classy country music duo **The Shires** (Crissie Rhodes and Ben Earle) hail from the Home Counties rather than Nashville but they make fine contemporary country songs on **Brave**, released on the Decca Nashville label. In a similar vein to Lady Antebellum, they play Birmingham Institute on April 17.

Practically unheard of in the UK, **The Goldebrs** released a couple of folk albums in mid-1960s America before their third was shelved because they split up.

You can hear the roots of sunshine pop in the gorgeous harmonies of sisters Dotti and Sheri Holmberg. If things had gone better they could have been rivals to The Mamas & the Papas.

Now Sounds have released the first anthology of the group, **Walkin' Down The Line: The Best Of The Goldebrs**, with 30 tracks including both albums, demos and material that was intended for the ill-fated third album.



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Petition calls for tougher speed limit outside school

A PETITION has been launched by campaigners urging speed limits to be made tougher outside a school in Wordsley.

Residents and councillors in the town have been leading a speed watch campaign warning motorists to slow down.

More than 100 people have signed the petition with copies given to schools and nurseries in the area.

Campaigners want a cut from 30mph to 20mph in the hope it would reduce the risk of another fatal accident on that stretch of road.

Ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley worked with police community support officers to set up the speed watch project. Dozens of drivers

have been warned about breaking limits on the mainly residential streets in the town near Stourbridge.

Residents and schoolchildren have joined in with the campaign to take part in speed watch events including monitoring drivers' speeds with recording equipment.

The youngsters were given the chance to use speed guns and the experience will now form part of a project on speed they are working on at Dingle Primary School.

Many of the monitoring sessions have taken place outside schools and near parks in built up areas where residents said there had been problems.



Speed limit campaigners Natasha Millward, Ian Barton, Bill Cody and Councillor Derrick Hemingsley

Nurseries to help Macmillan charity

A GARDEN centre has announced it will be supporting Macmillan Cancer Support as its charity for the year.

Ashwood Nurseries, near Kingswinford, has pledged to raise £15,000.

The money will go directly to an innovative pilot project in Dudley, which is aiming to improve palliative care and end of life services for people affected by cancer and other conditions.

The owner of Ashwood Nurseries, John Massey, will be opening up his three acre private garden on six days and donating all proceeds to the project. The garden, which has featured on TV, includes informal borders, island beds and woodland dells, against the beautiful backdrop of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.

Mr Massey said: "I chose Macmillan Cancer Support for the Ashwood Charity of the Year 2015 because I really value the important role they play in the care of cancer patients and their families."

Dudley tops energy over spending in the region

FAMILIES in the West Midlands will overspend on their energy bills by £354 million this year.

According to new research, £3.4 billion is being unnecessarily spent on energy across the UK due to variable tariffs.

Unsurprisingly, London tops a list of 100 cities and major towns with the biggest overspends. But it's Dudley that comes in 13th place with £21.8m, followed by Walsall in 19th place with £20m, Wolverhampton in 22nd with £18.5m and Stafford in 65th with £9.6m.

In total, 70 per cent of the Big Six energy company customers are overpaying by an average of £235 per year in the UK when compared to the cheapest fixed tariffs on the market.

Independent energy company First Utility said the research it commissioned showed that 80 per cent of bill payers would find it useful to have more information about cheaper tariffs from their existing supplier and those from others in the market.

Shocking

A similar percentage also said that more transparent bills and more information about the best tariffs available would increase their level of trust in energy companies.

Sarah Willingham, consumer champion at Lets-SaveMoney.com, said: "It's upsetting and shocking to see just how much money we are wasting in the UK by paying more than we need to for our energy."

"Traditionally the energy companies have not done enough to help consumers

By John Corser

get onto the best tariff and to save money."

Ian McCaig, chief executive of First Utility, said: "The UK energy industry has contrived to put itself in a situation where around two thirds of its customers are on the most expensive energy tariff the industry has to offer, namely the 'standard variable tariff'."

"That simply can't be right and is even more inexcusable in a climate where wholesale prices have been coming down."

"First Utility believes that the industry needs to change from within and do more to inform and support customers to help them make informed choices about the best tariff."

"A big step would be to scrap the standard variable tariff and call it what it is — the 'Out of Contract Tariff', the tariff you're left on when you're not on one of the good ones."

"Just as importantly, every household should be told in writing every single month whether there's a better, cheaper tariff for them anywhere across the entire industry."

Jan's the man for Rotary Club dinner

FORMER Liverpool Football Club star Jan Molby is appearing at a charity sportsman's dinner in Wolverhampton tonight (Thursday), organised by Dudley Rotary Club.

The legendary Danish midfielder, famed for his silky skills and his strong Scouse accent, will be star guest at the Molineux event.

Molby won both the league and FA Cup three times with Liverpool during his 12-year Anfield career and went on to have two spells managing Kidderminster Harriers.

Comedian

The black tie event has been organised by Dudley Rotary Club and will also feature comedian Billy Flywheel and John Collier. Tickets cost £50 each.

For tickets or more information contact Keith Law on 01384 566266 or e-mail keithlaw53@hotmail.co.uk

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The Railway Children at York Railway Museum

Three days departing August 14



★ **PRICE FROM £189**

Follow the adventures of Bobby, Peter and Phyllis in this award-winning production of The Railway Children at The National Railway Museum in York – a unique and exciting location where the tracks are the stage and the seats are on the platform. The production even features the Pannier Tank 5775 used in the film adaptation.

The enchanting show tells the delightful story of three Edwardian children plucked from their London home to live in rural Yorkshire close to a railway line.

Prior to the matinee performance, time is set aside to explore the delights of the medieval city of York which offers a whole host of attractions such as York Minster, Barley Hall and Clifford's Tower (entrance fees payable locally), and for shopaholics there are many top High Street stores along with a superb and diverse selection of gift shops.

Also included in the break is a visit to the National Media Museum, a must see attraction which is set over nine floors showcasing every aspect of the media world, from television, gaming and animation, through a mixture of collections, exhibitions and interactive galleries.

The itinerary includes a trip to Haworth, a quaint Yorkshire village made up of cobbled streets and alleyways. This is where Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights were created by the Bronte sisters. This is followed by a journey on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway, which has been restored to recreate the atmosphere of a 1950s branch line, and included in many film and TV productions including The Railway Children.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Ticket for the performance of The Railway Children at York Railway museum (*ticket upgrade offered*)
- Visit to the National Media Museum, Bradford
- Free time in York and Haworth
- Journey on Keighley and Worth Valley Steam Railway
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Kew Gardens Tree Tops Walk and Hampton Court

Two days departing June 20

★ **PRICE FROM £139**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Kew Gardens and Rhizotron and Xstrata Treetop walkway
- Entrance to Hampton Court Palace, Gardens and Maze
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Space Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall

Two days departing June 20

★ **PRICE FROM £129**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Choir seat in the Royal Albert Hall (*ticket upgrades offered*)
- Sightseeing tour of London or time to shop
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V787X)

Emmerdale Country and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing May 1, Jun 19, Sep 25

★ **PRICE FROM £169**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of 'Last of the Summer Wine country and a visit to Holmfirth
- Tours of 'Emmerdale' country and the Yorkshire Dales
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Isle of Wight and Osborne House

Four days departing June 26

★ **PRICE FROM £269**

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- Entrance to Ventnor Botanic Gardens and a cream tea
- Free time in Cowes
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Afternoon Tea at the Ritz

Two days departing April 26 and Sept 13

★ **PRICE FROM £199**

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- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Afternoon tea at The Ritz
- Tour manager escort to The Ritz
- Visit to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne bar St Pancras
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Norfolk Gardens and The Lavender Harvest

Three days departing July 3

★ **PRICE FROM £219**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to Cambridge
- Norfolk Lavender Caley Mill Grounds Tour
- Entrance to Sandringham House and Gardens
- Entrance to Bressingham Gardens
- Visit to the Lavender Oil Distillery
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Cunard 175th Anniversary in Liverpool

Two days departing May 24

★ **PRICE FROM £109**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Liverpool to see the three Cunard Queens; Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria on the Mersey
- Visit to Chester
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Portsmouth from Sea to Sky

Three days departing April 25

★ **PRICE FROM £209**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Submarine Museum
- Full day at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- Portsmouth Harbour Cruise
- Ride to the top of the Spinnaker Tower
- Visit to Winchester
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

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Four days departing May 17 and June 14

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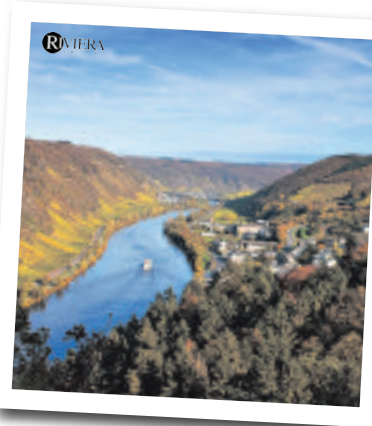
Moselle Valley by Eurostar

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- Return rail connections to London
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- Guided tour of Aachen
- Guided walk of Trier
- Visits to Koblenz, Bernkastel and Cochem
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)



Madonna tour coming to Brum

SOON after recovering from her dramatic fall at the BRIT Awards, pop icon Madonna has announced a new tour including a Birmingham date in December.

Just days after her fall at the end of the Brits sparked headlines around the world, when a cape dragged her into a backwards tumble during a dance routine, the Queen of Pop's Rebel Heart tour was announced for 35 cities in Europe.

Madonna will perform at the Barclaycard Arena, the former NIA, on December 16. Tickets go on sale on March 16.

The singer, 56, revealed that she suffered whiplash injuries in her BRITs fall when her red and black Armani cape was tied too tightly around her neck. "I smacked the back of my head," she told Jonathan Ross, on his show to be broadcast on Saturday.

Ancient coin is a bargain find at £29



Dudley's Stephen Creswell with the 2,000 year old coin

A YOUNG bargain hunter snapped up what appears to be a major historical artefact at a Wolverhampton auction.

Stephen Creswell, aged 22, paid £29 for a book of old coins, which he then discovered contained a Tyrian half shekel, an ancient currency used as back as far as 126 BC.

They were originally used as a method of payment for temple tax in Jerusalem due to their higher concentration of silver than Roman coinage.

Mr Creswell, from Dudley, said he didn't know what the book would contain at the time that he bid.

He said: "I wouldn't call myself a coin collector, I just like to grab a bargain, anything at the right price and I didn't want to leave the auction empty handed.

"I could obviously tell the coin was really old by looking at it but I had no idea what it was. I put a description of what I saw into Google and everything matched up."

A mint condition Tyrian shekel could fetch thousands, but Mr Creswell says his new purchase, which is showing wear and tear, fascinates him so much he isn't looking to sell it on.

Royal visitor for SVR heritage line

HER Royal Highness Princess Anne is to take a trip along the Severn Valley Railway as part of its 50th anniversary.

The Princess Royal will pay her first visit to the attraction on April 13. She will meet staff, volunteers, founding members and apprentices, as well as being invited to ride on the footplate of one of the railway's steam engines.

The visit coincides with the line being voted Heritage Site of the Year in the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards earlier this week.

A welcome party of dignitaries and SVR representatives will welcome Princess Anne and her escort, the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, at Bewdley, where she will also meet a group of SVR pioneers and young volunteers before taking to the tracks. She will be invited to don a dust coat and gloves, and climb aboard the footplate of one of the SVR's resident steam locomotives, or to sit in the observation saloon for the journey to Kidderminster.

Whereabouts unknown for 39 West Midlands sex offenders

ALMOST 40 convicted sex offenders in the West Midlands have gone missing. One has been missing for almost 10 years.

Police revealed that they do not know the whereabouts of 39 registered sex offenders, one who went missing in 2006 and a further nine between 2010 and 2012.

Behind London, the West Midlands has the highest number of missing sex offenders in England.

West Mercia Police said six registered sex

offenders were missing, including one whose whereabouts had been unknown for eight years. Figures from Staffordshire Police were not available.

Across the country, 396 sex offenders are wanted, including some who have been missing for more than a decade.

One convicted sex offender in Gloucestershire has been missing since 2000, another in Northumbria disappeared in May 2002, while Humberside Police said the whereabouts of one registered sex offender had been unknown since September 2004.

Registered sex offenders — including rapists and paedophiles — are required to inform police and probation officers of their addresses and are supposed to be monitored by officials working under multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA).

In a statement through campaign group The Phoenix Post, Sara Payne, whose daughter Sarah was abducted and killed in 2000 by convicted paedophile Roy Whiting, said: "It's completely unacceptable that any registered sex offenders have disappeared from authority management, putting the public at risk."

Coffee shop helping Beacon

A COFFEE shop and sandwich bar will host live music and family activities to help raise money for charity on its opening day in Wolverhampton this Saturday.

Taste Warehouse on Sedgley Street will raise money through its fun day for the Sedgley-based Beacon charity, which supports visually impaired people across the West Midlands. Jenni Fryer, fundraising manager for Beacon, said: "Support from local businesses is vital for the ongoing survival of regional charities like Beacon. We hope this is a very successful day for Taste Warehouse."

Saturday's activities will be from 11am to 4pm with Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Mike Heap, officially opening the shop.

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Back to the 60s
with Benidorm
star in Hairspray!



Tony Maudsley as Edna

BENIDORM star Tony Maudsley will be putting on the big frock to play Edna Turnblad in the return of feel-good 1960s musical Hairspray!

Maudsley will be swapping hairdryers for ham dinners when the Hotel Solano's chief crimper takes on the role of the maxi-sized mom of high school rebel Tracy Turnblad.

The touring show has been chosen as the festive season musical treat at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre, from December 14 to January 9.

Motormouth

Joining him in the cast will be actor and former Blue Peter host Peter Duncan as Mr Turnblad, West End star Claire Sweeney as the wicked Wasp Velma Von Tussle and former X Factor finalist and We Will Rock You showstopper Brenda Edwards as Motormouth Maybelle.

Freya Sutton will reprise her role as the irrepressible Tracy after starring in the 2013 tour.

Sir Tom joining the bill for a 'Made in Britain' V Festival

EastEnders has tough new role

TO millions of TV viewers he is known as soft-hearted Barry from EastEnders but theatre goers in Wolverhampton will soon see Shaun Williamson play as a tough guy.

He stars in 1960s-set farce One Man, Two Guvnors from Tuesday, March 17, to Saturday, March 22, at the Grand Theatre.

Williamson played in the BBC soap between 1994 and 2004 as Barry Evans, who was dramatically killed off when his lover Janine Butcher pushed him off a cliff. But 11 years later, the actor plays Charlie Clench in a show which is a glorious celebration of British comedy.

"I always enjoy coming to Wolverhampton, it's a beautiful theatre," he said. "The show is incredible and probably one of the funniest things I have been a part of in my career. It's like an adult pantomime meeting a Carry On film."



Shaun Williamson as a gangster in One Man Two Guvnors

MUSIC legend Sir Tom Jones will be playing alongside chart toppers Kasabian and Calvin Harris at this summer's V Festival.

Grammy and 2015 BRIT winner Sam Smith, fellow BRIT winner Paloma Faith, Ellie Goulding and Welsh rockers Stereophonics and Paloma Faith are also on the bill in a home-grown line-up to celebrate the festival's 20th anniversary.

The event will be held at Weston Park on the weekend of August 22 and 23, with a mirror image V taking place over the same weekend at Hylands Park in Chelmsford, Essex.

Headlining on the Saturday at Weston Park will be Scottish DJ Calvin Harris and V regulars Stereophonics.

They will be joined by The Script, Ellie Goulding, Paloma Faith, George Ezra, The Kooks, Clean Bandit, Chvrches, Kodakline, Ella Henderson, Jessie Ware, Duke Dumont, Gregory Porter, Ella Eyre and Irish rockabilly singer Imelda May.

Sunday will see Sir Tom joined by Leicester rockers Kasabian, Sam Smith, Olly Murs, Irish singer/songwriter Hozier, Courteeners, Nero, Annie Mac, Labrinth, Andy C, Jess Glynne, Fuse ODG, Marina & The Diamonds, Hannah Wants, Reverend & The Makers, Scottish folk/pop singers The Proclaimers and hip hop legends Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five.

British

Festival director Simon Moran said: "We wanted to champion British talent at this year's festival and with the likes of Calvin and Kasabian leading the way we don't think it'll disappoint."

"The eclectic mix of established artists and rising stars, with a few more in the pipeline, means that once again there is something for everyone at V Festival."

"It's incredible to think what V has achieved in two decades. When we started out in '96, we were two stages and one tent, with the northern site only hosting one day of acts. Since then we've hosted some of the most iconic acts from around the world."



Sir Tom, now a judge on TV's The Voice

Most festival-goers will be spending around £199 on weekend tickets including camping.

But those with a bigger budget will again be able to try something more upmarket with ready-built bell tents, huts and luxury yurts.

More acts will be announced soon to perform on the festival's four stages and in the Glee Club comedy tent.

Off stage there will be other entertainment including a silent disco on the Friday and Saturday nights, food and drink stalls for weekend campers, and funfair rides.

Tickets went on sale on Friday.

Let it go and sing
along with Frozen

DISNEY'S Frozen is a phenomenal success. Inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's The Snow Queen, the Disney studio's 53rd animated feature has become a billion dollar box office blockbuster.

Fans of the story about Princesses Elsa and Anna will join in with their favourite movie at Sing-a-Long-a Disney's Frozen at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Sunday. It's so popular that all three showings have sold out but it will return for two performances on May 25.

If your little ones prefer dinosaurs to Disney, prehistoric puppets ensure it's a Jurassic lark at Birmingham Hippodrome for Dinosaur Zoo at the Hurst Street venue from tomorrow (Friday) to Sunday.

It's a Special night
at the Glee Club

DREADLOCKED Northern Irish singer/songwriter Duke Special is in concert at Birmingham Glee Club on Sunday.

The singer and pianist (born Peter Wilson) has collaborated with Clannad, written songs for an exhibition at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and appeared in a Brecht play at the National Theatre.

His most recent single is Elephant Graveyard and he comes to the Arcadian Centre venue three weeks before the release of latest album Look out Machines.

Californian singer/songwriter Brett Dennen, who toured with Paloma Faith, is at the Glee on April 15.

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CHOICE



You're Back in the Room (ITV, 8.20pm)
New series. Phillip Schofield is joined by renowned illusionist Keith Barry in a game show where five strangers team up to win a potential £25,000 by completing apparently simple challenges. The only things standing between them and the money are their own minds – because they have all been hypnotised. Over the course of four rounds, the tasks get much harder as their hypnotic triggers cause the players to inadvertently sabotage their chances of winning. This week, celebrity chefs Lesley Waters, Paul Rankin, Ed Baines and Aldo Zilli join in the fun.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Formula 1: The Australian Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights. **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Ireland (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v Scotland (Kick-off 5.00pm). **6.55** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **7.15** **The Voice UK.** Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first of two knockout rounds this weekend, in which Rita Ora and Will.i.am reduce their teams down to the three acts that will perform in the live shows. The vocalists each choose a solo song and step into the spotlight for what could be the final time, knowing that five out of each group will be leaving disappointed at the end of the day. Continues tomorrow. **8.30** **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants pick a selection of dream prizes to make up their personal wish lists, all of which have a connection to their shared history together. They then face categories of questions in an attempt to win their chosen items. Plus, the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Gabby Roslin. Last in the series. **9.20** **Casualty.** Lily is involved in an accident on her way home from work when her moped collides with a schoolgirl – and when she admits she was tired, the youngster's father is furious. Has the young doctor jeopardised her career? The medics grow suspicious of a couple when urine tests on a mother and her baby bring up traces of amphetamines. Connie and Rita argue as the team continues to be overworked, while Cal steals money from Ethan for Taylor's charity. **10.10** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents action from the latest Premier League fixtures, including Burnley v Manchester City at Turf Moor and Arsenal v West Ham United at the Emirates Stadium; National Lottery Update. **11.50** **The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents. **1.10** EastEnders. **3.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **3.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 Film: Jules Verne's Rocket to the Moon. (1967) **8.10** Six Nations Rewind. **9.10** Six Nations Rewind. (R) **10.10** The Fred Dibnah Story. (R) **10.40** The Fred Dibnah Story. (R) **11.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **12.00** A Taste of Britain. **12.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.55** Kenneth More: Talking Pictures. **1.25** Film: North West Frontier. (1959) Action adventure, starring Lauren Bacall and Kenneth More. **3.30** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R) **6.00** **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don has advice on how to get the best out of hellebores, and Carol Klein visits a couple hoping to create the garden of their dreams over the coming year with her help. (R) **6.30** **Afghanistan: A Service of Commemoration Highlights.** Coverage of yesterday's ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral, where the Queen led a service to mark the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, followed by a parade and a fly-past paying tribute to everyone involved in the 13-year campaign. Hugh Edwards presents. **7.30** **How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson.** The science author explores innovations in capturing and transmitting sound, including a look at the printer in France who first recorded the human voice. Last in the series. **8.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring is alarmed to discover the extent of butcher Corporal Jones's cash-flow crisis and takes drastic measures to help him. Comedy from 1975, starring Clive Dunn. (R) **9.00** **Film: Hockney.** (2014) Premiere. Documentary exploring the career of acclaimed artist David Hockney. The film uses previously unseen home movies and photographs taken from his personal archive to create a visual diary of Hockney's life, and examines his upbringing in working-class Bradford, his relocation to America, the influences on his work and his desire to escape categorisation. **10.45** **Film: Enigma.** (2001) A gifted mathematician employed to crack Germany's latest cipher fears a female colleague he has fallen for is a spy. Second World War drama, with Dougray Scott. **12.40** **Film:** Puppet on a Chain. (1971) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. **6.10** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knockers Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Tipping Point. (R) **2.35** Doc Martin. (R) **3.35** Secrets from the Sky. (R) **4.05** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.35** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** **You've Been Framed! Top 100 Weddings.** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a countdown of 100 wedding-themed camcorder calamities and viewer-submitted mobile-phone clips. (R) **7.00** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The Georgie duo go head to head in this week's high-stakes round of Ant v Dec overseen by Ashley Roberts, Little Ant and Dec cause more mayhem and there's a spectacular End of the Show Show with tango masters Vincent Simone and Flavia Vaccaro. The Supercomputer hits the road again, and another member of the studio audience plays to win the contents of a commercial bag. **8.20** **You're Back in the Room.** New series. Game show in which five strangers are hypnotised by Keith Barry and must tackle apparently simple challenges as a team, hoping to win £25,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. **9.20** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** A Madonna special in which the Queen of Pop talks about her infamous fall on stage at last month's Brit Awards, and performs two tracks from her new album Rebel Heart. **10.20** ITV News: Weather. **10.40** **Film: Mercury Rising.** (1998) An FBI agent shields an autistic child from government assassins after the boy cracks a supposedly unbreakable top-secret code. Thriller, starring Bruce Willis. **12.40** Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.30 The Grid. **7.00** Cycling: Revolution Series. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** Rude (ish) Tube. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Uttoxeter, Kempton Park and Lingfield Park. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** **The Simpsons.** When Miss Hoover asks her students to research their family history, Lisa is distressed to discover that most of her forebears seem to have been crooks and deadbeats. (R) **6.40** **Channel 4 News.** **7.05** **The Restoration Man.** George Clarke revisits Nik Huddy and Vanessa Ford Robbins, who set out to transform a Victorian gate lodge in Surrey, but found they needed an extension to live there comfortably. (R) **8.00** **The World's Wildest Weather.** The mystery of red rain falling in Sri Lanka and India, how unusual weather is making Florida the sinkhole capital of the world, and strange lights in the sky that are baffling locals in a remote Norwegian town. Plus, ready-made snowballs in Alaska, giant spiderwebs covering trees in Pakistan, sand of ice sprouting from the ground in someone's back garden, and an underwater cloud in Mexico. **9.00** **Film: Bridesmaids.** (2011) A disorganised woman is asked to be maid of honour at her best friend's wedding. Taking charge of the pre-nuptial bridal celebrations, she resolves to give her pal and accompanying bridesmaids the time of their lives, but as her efforts slide into chaos she finds the wife of the groom's boss is keen to usurp her position. Comedy, with Kristen Wiig. **11.30** **Film: True Lies.** (1994) A computer salesman's wife is unaware her boring husband leads a double life as a secret agent. James Cameron's action comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **2.00** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **2.55** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.05** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **5.20** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.25** SpongeBob SquarePants. **11.00** Film: Open Season 2. (2008) **12.30** Film: Hitch. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Will Smith and Eva Mendes. **2.45** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **3.45** Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R) **4.40** GPS: Behind Closed Doors. (R) **5.40** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **6.30** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Repossession experts Mike Allonby and Terry Jones roam the streets, looking for cars belonging to people with outstanding unpaid loans. (R) **7.20** **Police Interceptors.** Hayley rushes to help two badly injured motorcyclists, while Ross and John haul in a drink-driver who has left a trail of destruction in his wake. Duncan has to escort a 176-wheel monster truck through Worthington, Steve deals with a boy racer, Tom goes undercover on the trail of some suspected bike thieves, and Duggie plays gooseberry on a couple's first date. (R) **8.15** **5 News Weekend.** **8.20** **NCIS.** A navy recruitment officer is murdered at a high school and the agents discover he had recently begun a relationship with a married teacher whose wife held a grudge against him. They also find out a student's father was vehemently opposed to his joining the military, and receive help from an unexpected quarter – Ducky's esteemed predecessor, Dr Magnus. (R) **9.15** **NCIS.** An ex-serviceman is beaten to death in his own back garden, and the agents are forced to consider the possibility his wife – a marine and martial arts expert – is the killer. (R) **10.10** **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** The investigation of a man stabbed to death in an alley leads the team into a fetish scene in which people dress up as dolls in custom-made rubber suits. **11.05** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** The death of a marine who became pregnant by a rapist brings the unit into conflict with the Pentagon, and the case brings back painful memories of Benson's own sexual assault. (R) **12.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Costa Del Casualty: Benidorm ER. (R) **4.00** The Boy They Call Fish: Extraordinary People. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.30** Top Gear **8.30** Film: Real Steel (2011) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.00** Family Guy **12.55** Uncle 1.25 Bluestone 42 1.55 Russell Howard's Good News **2.25** Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **3.25** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **BBC Four**
7.00 The Secret Life of Elephants **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **9.00** Hostages **10.55** The Job of the Bee **11.55** Bee Gees at the BBC and Beyond **12.55** Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe Extra **1.25** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.00** The Secret Life of Elephants **3.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **4.00** Close **ITV2**
11.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **12.40** Catchphrase **1.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.50** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **3.40** Mr Bean **4.45** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **6.50** Film: Twins (1988) **9.00** Film: Rush Hour (1998) **11.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **11.25** Reality Bites **12.10** Ibiza Weekender **1.20** Crazy Beaches **1.35** Hell's Kitchen **2.20** Fake Reaction **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.45 Jane Eyre **2.00** Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **3.55** Wycliffe **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.05** Inspector Morse **12.25** A Touch of Frost **2.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
11.45 Counting Cars **12.45** Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) **4.00** Storage Wars: Texas **4.10** Storage Wars **5.10** Film: Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) **7.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Miami ePrix. **9.30** Cricket World Cup Highlights **10.30** Film: Jaws 3 (1983) **12.30** Film: South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (1999) **2.10** Hogan's Heroes **2.35** Movies Now **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.35 Marry Me **12.00** New Girl **1.00** Melissa & Joey **2.00** Baby Daddy **2.55** Film: Step Up (2006) **5.00** Troy **5.55** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** The Inbetweeners **12.10** Rude Tube **1.15** Troy **2.15** The Inbetweeners **4.00** Taking New York **4.55** Make It or Break It **Film4**
11.00 Guadalcanal Diary (1943) **1.00** The Rocker (2008) **3.05** The First Wives Club (1996) **5.10** Star Trek: Insurrection (1998) **7.15** Jumper (2008) **8.00** Chronicle (2012) **10.40** Watchmen (2009) **1.50** Dark Star (1974) **3.35** Close

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CHOICE



Mr Selfridge (ITV, 9pm)
Harry is thrown when Nancy suddenly announces they should keep their relationship professional, at least until the Selfridge Estate is finished. A grieving Mr Grove is keen to carry on as normal, but continues to shun Miss Mardle, while Grace and Gordon have an embarrassing encounter with Mr Crabb. Victor and Elsa come up with a new idea for Colleano's, Violette catches the eye of a visiting French count, and a huge 'Britain at Play' promotion is launched in the store to keep the shareholders happy. Drama based on the life of Harry Gordon Selfridge, starring Jeremy Piven, Zoe Wanamaker, Amanda Abbington, Tom Goodman-Hill, Kara Tointon and Amy Beth Hayes.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Formula 1 – Australian Grand Prix Highlights. 2.40 Live Six Nations Rugby Union, Italy v France (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.00 Songs of Praise. 5.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 5.55 The Big Painting Challenge.
6.50 Countryfile. The show comes from Northern Ireland, where Matt Baker finds out about the hares that have made their home at Belfast International Airport and helps out at RSPB reserve Portmonee Lough, the first in the country to offer a year-long residential volunteer programme.
7.45 The Voice UK. The knockout rounds come to an end and the line-up for the live shows is revealed as coaches Tom Jones and Ricky Wilson finally settle on the three acts they are each taking through to the quarter-finals. Presented by Emma Willis and Marvin Humes.
9.00 Poldark. Period drama set in late 18th-century Cornwall, based on the novels by Winston Graham. The closure of the local tin mine leaves hundreds out of work and desperately poor, so Ross considers reopening his family mine with a view to bringing prosperity back to the area. He takes time out to accompany his cousin Verity to a ball, where she falls in love with Captain Blamney – a man who turns out to be hiding a dark secret – and Ross causes a stir by getting intimate with the now-married Elizabeth.
10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea v Southampton and Everton v Newcastle United.
11.40 Comic Relief – The Best Bits. A selection of clips from Friday's entertainment extravaganza from London Palladium, where celebrities including Lenny Henry and John Bishop performed to raise money for disadvantaged people in the UK and Africa. (R)
12.40 The Apprentice USA. 2.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.10 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.10 The Football League Show. (R) 7.30 Gardeners' World. (R) 8.00 Countryfile. (R) 9.00 Six Nations Rewind. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.30 A Taste of Britain. 12.00 A Taste of Britain. 12.30 Film: Merrill's Marauders. (1962) Adventure, starring Jeff Chandler. 2.05 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. (R) 2.35 Three Up, Two Down. (R) 3.05 Hi-de-Hi! (R) 3.35 Flog It! 4.35 Galapagos – Islands of Change: Natural World. (R) 5.35 Supercars vs Used Cars: The Trade Off. (R)
6.35 Pompidou. The penniless aristocrat realises a bowl he gave to a friend for Christmas is now worth £1million, and he and Hove hatch a plan to try to reclaim it. Jane Asher guest stars.
7.00 Comic Relief – The Best Bits. Highlights from Friday's extravaganza to raise money for disadvantaged people in the UK and Africa, including a Little Britain special featuring David Walliams and Stephen Hawking.
8.00 Top Gear. The presenters immerse themselves in the world of classic cars, Richard Hammond compares Subaru's WRX STI with VW's Golf R.
9.00 Dragons' Den. Duncan Bannatyne bids farewell after more than 10 years on the show, and fellow Dragons Kelly Hoppen and Piers Linney are also stepping down. Their final chance to invest in new ideas sees two young entrepreneurs pitching a bespoke suit-tailoring business, and a registered nurse trying to gain investment for her life-saving product. An eco-friendly skip on wheels causes confusion in the ranks, while edible insects give some of the panellists the creeps.
10.05 Bluestone 42. New series. The members of the unit find themselves trapped in hostile territory, while Bird has to step up as leader.
10.35 The Revolution Will Be Televised. Part two of two. The German embassy receives a visit from the London congestion charge collection team and James and Barnaby go on a fact-finding mission to the EU.
11.05 Film: Burke & Hare. (2010) Comedy horror, with Simon Pegg, Andy Serkis and Tom Wilkinson.
12.30 Film: Lone Star. (1996) 2.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.35 HOLBY City. (R) 4.35 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.20 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.50 Scrambled! Ultimate Spider-Man. 8.30 Scrambled! Horrid Henry. 8.50 Scrambled! Hulk and the Agents of Smash. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.30 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 1.35 River Monsters. (R) 2.40 Tipping Point. (R) 3.40 Film: Licence to Kill. (1989) James Bond spy thriller, starring Timothy Dalton.
6.10 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.20 ITV News: Weather. 6.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Radio 2 presenter Ken Bruce, former England midfielder Paul Ince, EastEnders actress Laila Morse (Mo Harris) and boxer David Haye compete to win thousands of pounds for charity by taking on one of the show's resident trivia experts in a test of their general knowledge. However, they must work as a team to build their prize pot and stay one step ahead of the Chaser. (R)
7.30 Off Their Rockers. Mo embraces modern fashion, Tony reveals a saucy secret and Royston shares his strange inventions, as the irreverent hidden-camera show continues.
8.00 All Star Family Fortunes. Sunderland defender Wes Brown and actress Jill Halfpenny team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity. Vernon Kay hosts.
9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry is thrown when Nancy announces they should keep their relationship professional. Mr Grove continues to shun Miss Mardle, and Violette catches the eye of a French count.
10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10.15 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. Arriving at a cave system, the contestants use their rope skills to navigate the tight spaces and waterfall descents in search of their dinner, a pig carcass that Bear has hidden. (R)
11.15 Live: Cup Rugby Union. 12.10 The Store. 2.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.15 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)**

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 How I Met Your Mother. 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. 7.05 How I Met Your Mother. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.55 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year. (R) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 2.25 Film: Step Up 4: Miami Heat. (2012) Premiere. Dance drama sequel, starring Kathryn McCormick. 4.30 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.35 Channel 4 News.
6.05 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. Property experts meet a couple of fitness fanatics who cannot decide between buying a property on southern Spain's Costa Tropical or opting for a bigger house in the Cotswolds.
7.00 Four Rooms. Dealers Gordon Watson, Celia Sawyer, Alex Proud and David Sonnenenthal battle it out over a lock of Napoleon's hair, recycled haute couture worn by burlesque star Dita Von Teese and an erotic silver chess set.
8.00 Great Canal Journeys. New series. Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on a watery adventure, starting in the romantic city of Oxford, where they began their courtship many years ago. They follow the gentle contours of the Oxford Canal through the Chertwell Valley, where they meet novelist Philip Pullman and are joined by their son, fellow actor Samuel West.
9.00 Indian Summers. Cynthia is left reeling when Eugene makes a revelation about his family's finances, while Sarah uses her knowledge of Alice's secret past to blackmail her friend.
10.00 Britain's Racist Election. Recalling how a political campaign took a street to the brink of racial segregation in 1964, when maverick Conservative Peter Griffiths won the West Midlands seat of Smethwick.
11.05 Film: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse. (2010) Bella Swan's supernatural love triangle threatens to ignite a conflict between vampires and werewolves. Romantic fantasy sequel, starring Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.
1.15 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. 2.05 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.30 River Cottage Veg Heroes. (R) 4.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Pip Ahoy! (R) 6.45 The Mr Men Show. (R) 6.55 Chloe's Closet. (R) 7.05 Only the Little White Van. 7.15 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.25 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 7.30 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.45 Mio Mao. (R) 7.50 Little Princess. (R) 8.05 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 8.20 Milkshake! Monkey. (R) 8.25 Zack and Quack. 8.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.50 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.00 LazyTown. 9.30 Dora and Friends. 10.00 Spooksob SquarePants. 10.35 Access. 10.45 The Dog Rescuers. (R) 11.15 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 12.15 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 1.15 Film: Lost in Space. (1998) Sci-fi adventure, starring William Hurt and Gary Oldman. 3.50 Film: Surf's Up. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges. 5.25 Film: A Bug's Life. (1998) Pixar animation, with the voices of Dave Foley and Kevin Spacey.
7.15 5 News Weekend.
7.15 Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider. (2001) The gun-toting treasure seeker is thrown into a furious battle with a mysterious secret society as she races against time to locate the missing pieces of a legendary artefact that grants the owner the ability to control time. Action adventure based on the video games, starring Angelina Jolie, Daniel Craig, Leslie Phillips, Iain Glen, Chris Barrie and Jon Voight. Edited for daytime broadcast.
9.00 Film: Killer Elite. (2011) A former secret agent comes out of retirement when his mentor is captured by an Arab leader. The hostage will be freed if the ex-spy kills three fellow operatives in punishment for murders they committed. However, a shadowy group of assassins intends to protect his targets and keep their past crimes a secret. Action thriller, with Jason Statham, Clive Owen and Robert De Niro.
11.20 Film: Revolver. (2005) A gambler is helped by two enigmatic loan sharks to exact revenge on his deranged former boss for landing him in jail. Guy Ritchie's crime drama, with Jason Statham and Ray Liotta.
1.35 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 3.10 Filming My Father: In Life and Death. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **7.25 Film:** Race to Witch Mountain (2009) **9.00** Live at the Apollo **10.00** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** Bluestone **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **1.35** Live at the Apollo **2.05** Stop Cutting Our Girls: A Comic Relief Special
BBC Four
7.00 The Great War **7.40** London to Brighton in Four Minutes: Side By Side **7.45** Secret Knowledge: Bolsover Castle with Lucy Worsley **8.15** The Polio Story: The Vaccine That Changed the World **9.00** Nina Conti Clowning Around **10.00** Film: Untouchable (2011) **11.45** The Irish Rock Story: A Tale of Two Cities **12.45** Darcy Russell's Looking for Audrey **1.45** Narnia's Lost Poet: The Secret Lives and Loves of CS Lewis
ITV2
12.05 Take Me Out **1.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.40** Scorpion **2.30** Film: Freaky Friday (2003) **4.35** Catchphrase Mother's Day Special **8.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.55** Film: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (2003) **9.00** Ibiza Showkender **10.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30** Film: Romy and Michele's High School Reunion (1997) **12.20** Mom **1.15** Crazy Beaches **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records
ITV3
11.10 A Touch of Frost **1.20** Wycliffe **2.35** Bertie and Elizabeth **4.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.40** Inspector Morse **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.30** Film: The Elephant Man (1980) **1.55** Perspectives: David Walliams: The Genius of Dad **2.45** Judge Judy **3.25** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
12.40 Hogan's Heroes **1.45** Pawn Stars **3.35** Storage Wars: Texas **4.05** Storage Wars **5.00** The Big Fish Off **6.05** Film: Superman IV: The Quest for Peace (1987) **8.00** Uv-a Cup Rugby Union **9.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **10.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **11.00** Film: Runaway Train (1985)
E4
12.30 Revenge **1.30** The 100 **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** Film: Star Trek (2009) **9.00** Troy **10.00** Rude Tube **11.05** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** Latoos After Dark **12.35** How I Met Your Mother **1.35** Rules of Engagement **2.25** The Mindy Project
Film4
11.00 Winchester '73 (1950) **1.00** New in Town (2009) **2.50** Time Bandits (1981) **5.10** Five Children and It (2004) **7.00** The Phantom (1999) **9.00** Battleship (2012) **11.35** I Think I Love My Wife (2007) **1.25** Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter – and Spring (2003)

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MONDAY
Outbreak, Channel 5, 10.50pm
An expert in infectious diseases races against time to find a cure for a rapidly fatal airborne virus which is wiping out the population of a small town, and is threatening to turn into a pandemic. However, his task is hampered by senior military men, who are bent on burning down the town and incinerating the virus with it, regardless of any casualties. Thriller, with Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo, Morgan Freeman, Kevin Spacey and Donald Sutherland. (1995)

TUESDAY
Carry On Up the Jungle, ITV, 11.40pm
A Victorian explorer recalls how he was recruited by an aristocrat to find her missing son in the African jungle. Teaming up with a fearless hunter, he hoped to find a rare bird on his journey - but instead fell into the clutches of an all-female tribe. Comedy, starring Sid James, Frankie Howerd, Joan Sims, Kenneth Connor, Charles Hawtrey and Terry Scott. (1970)



Outbreak, Monday, Channel 5, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY
Hollywood Homicide, BBC1, 11.15pm
Two cops are put to the test by the baffling case of a rapper murdered on stage, but they are more concerned with escaping the daily grind of catching crooks than the machinations of the music industry. While one moonlights unsuccessfully as an estate agent, the other sees this high-profile case as a chance to fulfil his dream of becoming an actor. Action comedy, starring Harrison Ford and Josh Hartnett. (2003)

THURSDAY
Escape from Polygamy, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A widowed mother joins a religious cult and goes to live in their remote compound, where her teenage daughter falls in love with the son of the group's leader. When the preacher demands that the girl marry him, the two youngsters plan to escape together. Drama, starring Haley Lu Richardson and Mary McCormack. (2013)

FRIDAY
Passchendaele, BBC2, 11.35pm
A Canadian soldier is injured in battle during the First World War, and falls for a nurse in the hospital. Declared unfit for duty due to ill health, he is reassigned to a recruitment station - but he tricks his way back to the front line to protect the brother of the woman he loves. Drama, starring Paul Gross. (2008)

Looking back at 30 years of a TV classic

No Australian soap has been as indelible as Neighbours on British culture.

From those early lunchtime screenings on BBC1, the saga of Ramsay Street folk has touched a chord with millions.

It helped make recording stars of Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan; was a training ground for Hollywood talent such as Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce, Margot Robbie and Alan Dale, while characters such as Karl and Susan Kennedy have become household names.

In Neighbours 30th: The Stars Reunite (Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm), Kylie, Guy, Margot, Jason and Della Goodrem reflect on their time in the show.

Stefan Dennis (Paul Robinson) and Tim Phillips (Daniel Robinson) introduce proceedings, and welcome Ian Smith and Anne Charleston (Harold and Madge Bishop), Mark Little (Joe Mangel) and Craig McLachlan (Henry Ramsay).

Paul Robinson, arguably the greatest soap villain since JR, has been a dream role for Stefan Dennis.

"He's a great part," enthuses the seasoned thespian. "People say to me, 'What's your favourite storyline that you've ever done on Neighbours?' That's one of the hardest questions for me, partly because of the amount of years I've been on the show, and because my character and my storylines are so diversified, I can never answer that question."

Stefan appeared in that first episode 30 years ago, had a dozen years off, and then returned to Ramsay Street. A decade later he's still going strong.

"I came back for two weeks as a guest star. It was, as they say, 'an offer too good to refuse.' It is funny because I'll mention (on set), 'That storyline I did a couple of years ago, and one of the cast members will say, 'That was six years ago.'"

Stefan might be happy to talk about the show which made his name, but Jason Donovan is more reluctant to reflect on the era when Scott and Charlene's wedding won the hearts of millions.

"There's a whole bunch of fans that have an emotional connection with that. It's a long time ago. I certainly

understand how there's a big affection for it..."

Alan Fletcher is far happier chatting about his roles in the beloved soap. That's right, he's played someone other than ace doctor Karl Kennedy.

"It was the late Eighties and I played a character called Greg Cooper, who was a mechanic. I played him for three weeks," he recalls.

"They asked me to come back and do a year on Neighbours, but I declined because I was busy working in the theatre. Mercifully they didn't forget about me and I went back to work for them seven years later."

Alan returned to the show as Karl in 1994, but didn't have a clue that the role would dominate his life.

"I had no concept of the show lasting that long," he remarks. "Also, as a working actor, you never really like to think about how long a cult's going to go. I signed a one-year contract and I thought, 'A year on Neighbours. That'll be really cool. Then they extended it by another year. I thought, 'Great. Another year. Terrific. And then I blinked,' he laughs.



Neighbours 30th: The Stars Reunite, Wednesday, Channel 5, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Britain's Benefit Tenants Channel 4, 9pm
Due to falling numbers of council housing tenants, more and more people are renting privately, and many do so via housing benefit. Private landlords often use specialist letting agencies who are skilled in making the most from this particular marketplace, one of whom is the focus of this documentary. It follows agent Andrew Dyke, from Goldthorpe in South Yorkshire, who manages almost 1,000 clients, and who has achieved success due to his personal, hands-on approach. This week, that method even extends to him kicking in the door of one of his buildings, which has been hastily abandoned by the tenant. After gaining entry, he's surprised to find what looks like a cannabis factory. No wonder the occupant left in a hurry...

TUESDAY
Ordinary Lies BBC1, 9pm
New series. Ensemble drama following the workers at a car showroom, revealing what happens when moments of desperation lead some of them into telling big lies - spur-of-the-moment deceptions that quickly spiral out of control. The first episode focuses on salesman

Marty, played by Jason Manford, who is on his final warning for being late - so when he sleeps through his alarm after a heavy night of drinking, he panics and comes up with a drastic excuse. His colleagues are all sympathetic - but now he has to live with the lie that his wife is dead. Max Beesley, Jo Joyner, Mackenzie Crook and Michelle Keegan co-star.

Life After Suicide BBC1, 10.45pm
The leading cause of death in men below 50 is suicide, yet people still seem reluctant to talk about it. Birkenhead woman Angela Samata, whose partner Mark took his own life 11 years ago, meets others who have suffered a similar loss, asking why some people choose to take their own lives and whether those left behind can ever come to terms with their bereavement. Those she meets include Downton Abbey actor David Robb, talking about the death of his actress wife Briony McRoberts in 2013, and a Norfolk woman who is living with the suicides of both her husband and son.



Ordinary Lies, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

WEDNESDAY
Stargazing Live BBC2, 8pm
New series. Professor Brian Cox and Dara O Briain return to Jodrell Bank Observatory as they look ahead to Friday's total solar eclipse - one of the biggest astronomical events of the decade. They are also joined by Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, while Brian makes his own attempt to land a lunar module at Nasa and Dara finds out what happened to the rocks brought back from the moon. Dr Lucie Green gives advice on how to get the most from moon-gazing and Dallas Campbell gets to grips with robots that could revolutionise space exploration.

THURSDAY
The Truth About Sugar BBC1, 9pm
New series. In the first of four documentaries focusing on health matters, Fiona Phillips

investigates what sugar does to the body, finds out why some people have more of a sweet tooth than others and how sugar is added to many supermarket favourites believed to be purely savoury. She is also joined by four volunteers whose sugar-heavy diets could be putting their health at risk. Together they come up with ways to beat their sweet cravings and reduce their intake - but will it make a noticeable difference?

FRIDAY
Alan Carr: Chatty Man Channel 4, 10pm
The chat show these days is less about great quotes and more about those jaw-dropping moments that go viral. While Graham Norton may be the king of the genre, with James McAvoy and Mark Ruffalo on unicycles and that Will Smith dance routine (31 million hits and rising), Alan Carr has given him a run for his money. The Tom Hiddleston dance scene from a couple of years ago is well worth tracking down if you haven't already. Now the NTA-winning host is back for a new run with The Voice coaches Rita Ora, Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson and Tom Jones; Hollywood heartthrob Antonio Banderas; EastEnders' Danny Dyer, and providing the music is X Factor runner-up Ella Henderson. She'll be performing her new single, Mirror Man.

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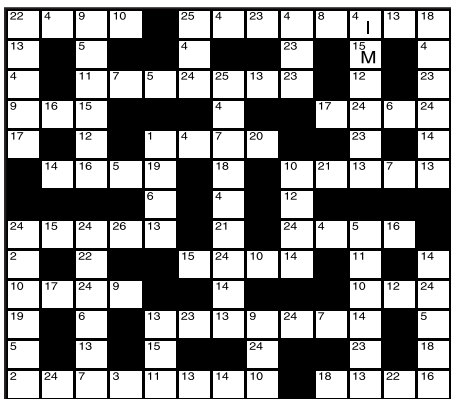
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Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	Y	P	G	O	V	N	M	D	I	W	Z	J
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
S	K	L	Q	A	R	C	E	U	B	H	F	X

1	14
2	15 M
3	16
4 I	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

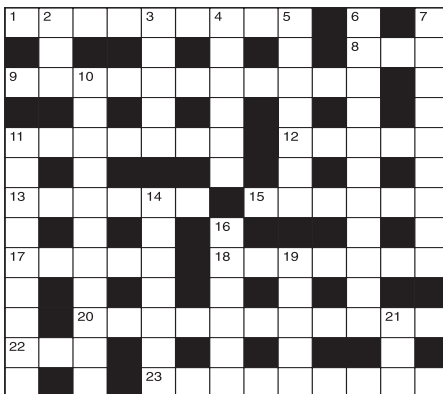
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Instruct the others all round in self-control (9)
8. The bearing of one who succeeds, we hear (3)
9. This could surely be used for a spell (11)
11. Performer disturbed by air-test (7)
12. Dispatches mail for appointments (5)
13. It's used for painting the sails of a ship (6)
15. To promote, choose one before others (6)
17. Nautical cry coming from a street around Virginia (5)
18. This may show high temperature when sluices are affected (7)
20. Coach charges (7,4)
22. Sounds like the second person to provide farm stock (3)
23. African trumpeters? (9)
2. Someone's age revealed inside (3)
3. Makes a call for some jewellery (5)
4. More than one reflection is written about poor game (6)
5. The excursionist is a dancer (7)
6. When they run out the eggs should be cooked! (5,2,4)
7. Rates revised about certain valuable items (9)
10. A shrub bed with a single flower (11)
11. Gabriel located in northern Russia (9)
14. The position of the rider making a pace (7)
16. Scoring implement needed for the clerk (6)
19. Part of a meal unchanged (5)
21. What to do with seventy-five per cent of the flesh! (3)

Down

2. Someone's age revealed inside (3)
3. Makes a call for some jewellery (5)
4. More than one reflection is written about poor game (6)
5. The excursionist is a dancer (7)
6. When they run out the eggs should be cooked! (5,2,4)
7. Rates revised about certain valuable items (9)
10. A shrub bed with a single flower (11)
13. Gabriel located in northern Russia (9)
14. The position of the rider making a pace (7)
16. Scoring implement needed for the clerk (6)
19. Part of a meal unchanged (5)
21. What to do with seventy-five per cent of the flesh! (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

7. Overcome (9)
8. Tenanted (3)
9. Tempest warning (5-6)
11. Constructor (7)
12. Pour fat over (5)
13. Folly (6)
15. Tranquillity (6)
17. Rogue (5)
18. Lover of country (7)
20. Cut off (11)
22. Plant (3)
23. Esteemed (9)

Down

2. Deserter (3)
3. Shy (5)
4. Bird-house (6)
5. Elevate (7)
6. Conjuror (11)
7. Assertion (9)
10. Inventiveness (11)
11. Liveliness (9)
14. Maker (7)
16. Athletics (6)
19. Topic (5)
21. Before (3)

		8		3	5			6
			9		4	5		
5						9	8	
	4			2	3	8		
	8		4		1			5
		5	8	9			2	
	5	9						
		4	1		2		9	
1			7	4				8

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9

LAST WEEK'S
SOLUTIONS >

2	6	4	7	5	9	3	8
8	1	7	6	3	4	2	9
5	9	3	1	2	8	6	7
6	3	2	4	7	5	8	1
9	4	5	2	8	1	7	6
1	7	8	9	6	3	5	4
4	2	6	5	1	7	9	3
3	5	9	8	4	6	1	2
7	8	1	3	9	2	4	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
 CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Uneven; 8 Polish; 10 Dilates; 11 Towel; 12 Owns; 13 Bared; 17 Utter; 18 Style; 22 Trawl; 23 Ageless; 24 Packet; 25 Wholly; 26 Towel; 27 Outdoor; 28 Healing; 31 Tetter; 4 Sorties; 5 Views; 6 Shale; 9 Estate car; 14 Atelier; 15 Steeped; 16 Leashed; 19 Adopt; 20 March; 21 Heaps. QUICK - Across: 7 Exotic; 8 Crease; 10 Replete; 11 Fling; 12 Site; 13 Peace; 17 Trite; 18 Tear; 22 Rouse; 23 Various; 24 Follow; 25 Screen. Down: 1 Repress; 2 Complete; 3 Slew; 4 Preface; 5 Rapid; 6 Verge; 9 Defective; 14 Freedom; 15 Devotee; 16 Present; 19 Gruff; 20 Bully; 21 Price.

1. Who added the King's to King's Lynn?
2. Which popular author was born James Alfred Wight?
3. In which county is Stansted Airport?
4. Which philosopher asserted 'I think, therefore I am'?
5. What relation are Clement and Lucian to Sigmund Freud?
6. For which flower is heartsease another name?
7. How is diamorphine better known?
8. Who plays Harry Potter in the movie versions of JK Rowling's books?
9. For which fictional hero did Alexander Selkirk provide the model?
10. Which Italian team did Robbie Keane leave to join Leeds United?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Paraffin; 2 Master of the Rolls; 3 Sydney; 4 Parkinson's disease; 5 Ku Klux Klan; 6 Oleander; 7 Buddhism; 8 Greece and Albania; 9 Aldous Huxley; 10 Berlin Philharmonic.

Niner: BROACHING

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

549 gives a fish,
7126 gives a second fish,
883 gives a third fish.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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13th April	5 days	Bournemouth Cumberland Hotel, Dorset circuit, Steam train ride, Salisbury Cathedral & Stonehenge	£279
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27th April	5 days	Eastbourne Landdowns Hotel, Brighton, Ryde and Battle	£295
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Unique home comes with riverside gardens and jetty



HAVING fabulous riverside gardens, The Willows, Stourport-On-Severn, is a unique modern detached property at the head of a private cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Allan Morris Estate Agents at £255,000.

One of only five properties built around 20 years ago by Messrs Anthony Douglas Homes Ltd, this home has generous lawned gardens sweeping down to meet the River Stour with a concrete jetty with its own fishing rights.

Accommodation includes a study, utility room and WC, reception hall, a spacious open plan lounge/dining room. The kitchen is equipped with an oven, hob and hood. There are also three bedrooms (master with en suite dressing room) and a bathroom, driveway, parking and a garage.

For further information contact Allan Morris Estate Agents on 01299 825522 or visit the website at www.allan-morris.co.uk



Town house has been refurbished

HAVING been recently refurbished, this two-bedroom town house in Brook Street, Gornal, is for sale through Bakers Property at £119,950.

With double glazing and central heating, a courtyard style rear garden and parking, it has a lounge with doors to the garden, an inglenook open chimney, under-stairs storage, dining room with gas fire, kitchen with integrated hob-oven-overhead extractor hood, laminate flooring, spot lighting and door to patio, utility, two bedrooms (one with a wardrobe) and a bathroom.

For details call 01384 252527 or visit www.bakersproperty.co.uk



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NEW

Dudley
Longfellow Road

EPC: TBC

- Three bedroom semi
- Double glazed and gas centrally heated
- Dining room
- Extended breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Attractive landscape

£650pcm

NEW

Sedgley
Bath Street

EPC: TBC

- Three bed semi
- Off road parking
- Garage
- Centrally heated
- Double glazed
- Modern bathroom with shower
- Landscaped gardens

£650pcm

EPC: D

Tividale
City Road

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom
- Rear garden

£525pcm

EPC: D

Sedgley
Crowesbridge Mews

- Three bed detached property
- Fitted kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bathroom with shower
- Guest W/C
- Utility room

£695pcm

NEW

Rowley Regis
Powke Lane

EPC: D

- Four bed detached house
- Lounge with coal gas fire
- Dining room
- Kitchen with appliances
- Main bedroom with en-suite facilities

£895pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Leveson Drive

- Three bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Alarmed

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HALESOWEN
BEECHER STREET
An attractively presented Traditional 3 Bedroom Detached providing spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and part UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED family accom with a host of charm and character in this popular and very convenient address. Briefly comprises:- Hall, spacious Lounge, elegant Dining Room, attractively fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 generous Bedrooms, stylishly refitted Bathroom with shower, Garage, pleasant lawned mature good sized rear Gardens and Driveway for 2 cars. EPC=E

Offers around £189,950



BRIERLEY HILL
HENZEL CROFT
This delightfully presented 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED family accom set over 3 floors in this popular and very convenient cul-de-sac. Hall, Downs W.C., spacious Lounge, superb fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 2 Double First Floor bedrooms, fitted Bathroom, large Attic/Master Bedroom with Dressing Area and SUITE Shower Room off, Side Garage, pleasant lawned rear Garden and driveway to front. EPC=D

Offers around £164,950



BRIERLEY HILL
GOLDEN CROSS WAY
This superbly presented, thoroughly redecorated and recarpeted Modern 3 Bed Townhouse provides refreshingly spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the discerning young family and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, Downs W.C., spacious Lounge, sep Dining Area opening to attractively fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 good Bedrooms (master with SHOWER EN SUITE off), fitted Bathroom, pleasant low maintenance rear Garden and 2 allocated car parking spaces to rear. EPC=C

Offers around £144,950



NETHERTON
NEWARK ROAD
Most pleasantly situated in this popular cul-de-sac, this attractively presented, extended 3 Bed Semi-Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer or young family and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Briefly comprises Hall, spacious Lounge, Conservatory, extended Kitchen, fitted Bathroom with shower, 3 good sized Bedrooms, First Floor W.C., pleasant rear Gardens with Southernly facing aspect and block paved Driveway for 2 cars. EPC=B/C

Offers around £109,950



BRIERLEY HILL
ADELAIDE STREET
Providing deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer, young family or INVESTOR, this well presented 2 Bed Intermediate Terrace is pleasantly situated in this established and very convenient address and briefly comprises:- Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Large Refitted Breakfast Kitchen, 2 Excellent Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower and enclosed Rear Garden/Yard. EPC=F

Offers around £84,950



QUARRY BANK
WEST STREET
This superbly presented, distinctively styled 2 Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow provides GAS C/ HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom enjoying a host of modern comforts including solar panels and an integrally fitted vacuuming system. Hall, spacious Lounge, superbly fitted Kitchen with built-in oven, hob, integrated fridge and freezer and dishwasher, Laundry/Utility Room, stylishly fitted Wet Room, 2 First Floor Bedrooms, First Floor W.C., pleasant low maintenance rear Gardens with sunny aspect and driveway for two cars to the side. EPC=C

Offers around £195,950



BRIERLEY HILL
STOURBRIDGE ROAD
Pleasantly situated with panoramic views to the rear from this very convenient address, this spacious Traditional 4 Bed Detached provides GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young or growing family. Hall, sep Dining Room, extended kitchen, 4 well proportioned Bedrooms, SUPERB LARGE FITTED BATHROOM with sep Shower, further home Bathroom, Garage, driveway for 2 cars and landscaped Rear Gardens with pleasant private outlook. EPC=C/E

Offers around £177,950



BRIERLEY HILL
LANCASTER ROAD
This attractive 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and uPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family in this popular and very convenient Cul-de-sac. Hall, Spacious 'L' Shaped Lounge with Dining Area, Sitting/Dining Room, "Avanti" Kitchen with built in oven, hob and integrated fridge/freezer, 3 Excellent Bedrooms, Sumptuous Re-Fitted Bathroom with Shower Room, Side Garage, pleasant lawned rear Gardens with South Westerly facing aspect and Driveway for 2/3 cars to the front. EPC=C

Offers around £157,500



BILSTON/COSELEY
BATMANSHILL ROAD
RECENTLY RECARPETED AND REDECORATED! Pleasantly and conveniently situated in this popular address this attractively styled Modern 3 Bed Semi provides well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family. Available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Hall, Downs W.C., separate Dining Room, Kitchen with built in oven and hob, 3 Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with shower, Side Garage, Lawned Rear Gardens and block paved driveway. EPC=D

Offers around £129,950



NETHERTON
PURLIN WHARF
This more "unique" Modern 2 Bed Detached provides superb GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED first floor accom, pleasantly situated with splendid panoramic views to the rear on this popular new development and is ideal for the First Time Buyer, Investor or professional couple. Hall, Landing, spacious Lounge opening to splendid MODERN FITTED KITCHEN WITH BUILT IN OVEN AND HOB, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, stylish Bathroom with shower, 2 car parking spaces and access to integral GARAGE (below) and 2 useful secure brick built stores. EPC=E

Offers around £119,950



PENSNETT
TILED HOUSE LANE
Most pleasantly situated towards the head of a small cul-de-sac leading from this well known address this spacious 3 Bed Semi provides GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and mostly UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time Buyer and briefly comprises:- Hall, Lounge, large fitted Kitchen with built in oven and hob, Downstairs W.C., 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, refitted Shower Room, Side Garage, pleasant lawned good sized rear Gardens with sunny aspect and range of large Useful Stores and driveway for 2/3 cars. EPC=D

Offers around £100,000



CRADLEY HEATH
HINGLEY COURT
Superbly presented 2 Bed GROUND FLOOR Apartment provides stylish UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom and is available in conjunction with the SHARED OWNERSHIP INITIATIVE (50% SHARE). Extremely convenient for the amenities of Old Hill and Cradley Heath. Security Controlled Entrance, Hall, attractive Lounge opening to SUPERBLY FITTED KITCHEN with built in oven and hob and washing machine, 2 Excellent Bedrooms, sumptuous Bathroom with shower, Allocated Car Parking Space with secure gates and Communal Gardens. EPC=C

£44,950 for 50% Share

PROPERTY

Extended town house for offers around £119,950

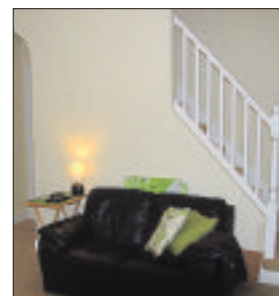


THIS refurbished two-bed town house in Brook Street, Gornal, has been extended.

It is for sale through Bakers Property at £119,950.

With double glazing and central heating and a courtyard-style rear garden and parking, it has a lounge with doors to the courtyard garden and an inglenook open chimney, under-stairs storage and stairs off, a dining room with gas fire, a kitchen with an integrated hob, oven and overhead extractor hood, a utility, two bedrooms and a bathroom.

For details call 01384 252527 or visit www.bakersproperty.co.uk



www.bakersproperty.co.uk

GORNAL



THE ALLEY
• Semi detached
• Cul-de-sac position
• Adjacent Cotwall End Valley
• Hall
• Conservatory
• Fitted Kitchen
• Three Bedrooms
• Bathroom
• Gas C/HTG
• Double Glazed
OFFERS BASED ON: £155,000

GORNAL



THE STRAITS
• DETACHED • CORNER PLOT
• FULLY REFURBISHED
• HALL • LOUNGE
• DINING ROOM • FITTED KITCHEN
• CLOAKROOM • LAUNDRY
• THREE BEDROOMS
• BATHROOM
• GARAGE • GAS C/HTG
• DOUBLE GLAZED
OFFERS BASED ON: £185,000

RUSSELLS HALL



HAWKSLEY ROAD
• Semi Detached
• Hall • Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen
• Two Bedrooms
• Bathroom
• Gas C/HTG
• Double Glazed
• Parkings • Gardens
OFFERS BASED ON: £109,950

GORNAL



SAINT CHADS CLOSE
• Bungalow
• Detached
• Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen
• Bedroom
• Bathroom
• Double glazed
• Parking • Gardens
OFFERS BASED ON: £139,950

GORNAL



BROOK STREET
• Recently fully refurbished
• Lounge • Dining Room
• Kitchen Extension
• Cloakroom
• Two Bedrooms
• Bathroom • Gas C/HTG
• Double Glazed
• Parking
OFFERS BASED ON: £119,950

GORNAL



SANDSTONE CLOSE
• MAISONETTE
• FIRST FLOOR
• PURPOSE BUILT
• IMMACULATE
• LOUNGE
• BEDROOM
• FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN
• BATHROOM
• DOUBLE GLAZED
OFFERS BASED ON: £69,950

GORNAL



CENTRAL DRIVE
• FOR SALE OR TO LET
• Semi Detached
• Lounge
• Fitted Kitchen
• Three Bedrooms
• Bathroom • Gas C/HTG
• Double Glazed
• Sale or £575 PCM
OFFERS BASED ON £105,000

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Four-bedroom detached in a popular residential area



THIS extended four-bedroomed detached house in Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury, has a good sized garden and is in a popular residential area. It is for sale through Tom Giles & Co at £339,950.

It has a reception hall with a staircase off, a WC, sitting room with a bay window, a lounge with a sliding door to conservatory, extended kitchen/dining room with modern units, a five ring gas hob with cooker hood above, an integrated dishwasher, double oven, central island and breakfast bar and dining area, a conservatory, utility/verandah. Bedroom one has en suite wardrobes, three further bedrooms feature fitted furniture, there is a bathroom with tiled flooring and a heated towel rail. There is a garage and rear garden. Contact Tom Giles & Co on 0121 5526171 or visit www.tomgilesandco.co.uk



Modernised home has been extended

A MODERNISED and extended four-bedroomed semi-detached property, 119 Pendeford Avenue, Wolverhampton, is for sale through Rees Page at £174,950.

It has a porch, a reception hall, a through lounge/diner with two fireplaces, L-shaped kitchen with units, a gas hob, electric oven, dishwasher and fridge freezer, a breakfast bar, a utility room, WC, a store, four bedrooms (one en suite, one with a bay window and one with a built-in cupboard), a bathroom with a corner bath and shower cubicle. Outside is a landscaped frontage with gravel drive, rear patio and lawn. Call Rees Page on 01902 577775 or visit www.reespage.com



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<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>4 ELMWOOD RISE</div> <div>£249,950</div> <div>SEDGLEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached house with four bedrooms En suite shower room off bedroom one Extended breakfast kitchen, utility room Private rear garden with excellent views <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>4 EDEN GARDENS, OFF GORGE ROAD SEDGLEY</div> <div>£214,950</div> <div>NO UPWARD CHAIN</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attractive, modern dormer style detached residence Four bedrooms, ensuite shower room Located in a small secure gated development Lounge & dining room, utility area, large L-shaped bathroom <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NO UPWARD CHAIN</div> <div>50 CLAREMONT ROAD/O/A</div> <div>£199,950</div> <div>SEDGLEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional style detached house Three bedrooms & recently re-fitted bathroom Extended kitchen & downstairs shower room, Attractively landscaped westerley facing rear garden <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NO UPWARD CHAIN</div> <div>75 NORTHWAY</div> <div>£195,000</div> <div>SEDGLEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link detached house Well maintained & presented Three bedrooms Private rear garden <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>MOGUL LANE</div> <div>PRICES FROM £179,950</div> <div>CRADLEY HEATH</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small new development of four detached houses Spacious three bedroom accommodation Cloakroom/vc & ensuite shower room Built by Ling Developments <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATINGS TBC</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>1 WENDOVER ROAD</div> <div>£179,950</div> <div>ROWLEY REGIS</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detached house Three bedrooms Attractively presented Refitted kitchen <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D</div> </div> </div>	
<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>69 CONSTANTINE WAY O/A</div> <div>£167,950</div> <div>BILSTON</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern detached house Three bedrooms Generous sized garden plot Large level rear garden <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>41 DUDLEY ROAD</div> <div>O/A £159,950</div> <div>SEDGLEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi detached bungalow Popular Brownsall estate Well proportioned accommodation Opposite Coronation Gardens <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>4 LYDIATES CLOSE</div> <div>O/A £154,950</div> <div>SEDGLEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Semi detached bungalow Two bedrooms Level rear garden <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>78 DEEPPDALE LANE</div> <div>O/A £145,000</div> <div>LOWER GORNAL</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended semi detached house Three bedrooms Well maintained accommodation Excellent views towards Shropshire Hills <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>23 DENISE DRIVE</div> <div>O/A £139,950</div> <div>COSELEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended semi detached house Three bedrooms Well proportioned accommodation Large private rear garden <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NO UPWARD CHAIN</div> <div>179 TIPTON ROAD</div> <div>£137,950</div> <div>WOODSETTON</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spacious Victorian terraced house Two large bedrooms Re-fitted kitchen & bathroom Secure parking at rear <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>26 GEORGE ROAD</div> <div>£135,000</div> <div>COSELEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended semi detached Three bedrooms Conservatory Refitted kitchen & bathroom <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D</div> </div> </div>
<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>55 MUSK LANE WEST</div> <div>£129,950</div> <div>LOWER GORNAL</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended semi detached Three bedrooms Extended kitchen Gas central heating <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NO UPWARD CHAIN</div> <div>FLAT 4 REGENCY COURT</div> <div>£124,950</div> <div>DUDLEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern first floor flat Two bedrooms, ensuite shower room Spacious lounge Communal grounds, lift to all floors <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>REDUCED</div> <div>74 BATH STREET</div> <div>£124,950</div> <div>SEDGLEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well presented & improved home Three bedrooms, spacious lounge Re-fitted kitchen & bathroom Rear garage with additional parking <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NO UPWARD CHAIN</div> <div>35 PADARN CLOSE</div> <div>£122,000</div> <div>SEDGLEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern terraced house Three bedrooms Ideal first time purchase / investment purchase Shower room, car parking space <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE - EPC RATING C</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NO UPWARD CHAIN</div> <div>13 TURL'S HILL ROAD OIRO</div> <div>£105,000</div> <div>SEDGLEY</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edwardian semi detached house Three bedrooms General updating & renovation works Two reception rooms, breakfast room <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING G</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>LAND ADJOINING 78 DEEPPDALE LANE O/A</div> <div>£75,000</div> <div>LOWER GORNAL</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rarely available building plot Outline planning permission for detached dormer 2 bedroom bungalow Wide frontage onto Deepdale Lane Superb views to the rear <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE</div> </div> </div>	<div> <div> <div>NEW</div> <div>30 JOCKEY FIELDS</div> <div>£57,950</div> <div>UPPER GORNAL</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First floor flat One bedroom Gas central heating Communal grounds <div>SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C</div> </div> </div>

Sedgley Office

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New



KINGSWINFORD, Mount Pleasant

A DECEPTIVE & EXTENDED MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME within a sought after location offering a GENEROUS 3 Bedroom layout of WELL PRESENTED/APPOINTED accommodation. With DRIVEWAY, 25' plus GARAGE and an established/secluded rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain

£234,950



KINGSWINFORD, Wartell Bank

●● £10,000 REDUCTION ●● A DELIGHTFUL, ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED, PERIOD DETACHED FAMILY HOME enhanced by a beautifully laid out garden with a SWIMMING POOL, plus a CONSERVATORY EXTENSION, THREE LARGE BEDROOMS and TARMAC DRIVEWAY to the fore. EPC E

New price

£214,950



WOODSETTON, Marlborough Road

Exceptional, SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached in magnificent order throughout comprising; entrance vestibule, inner hall, kitchen with many integrated appliances; pantry, living/dining room (incorporating inglenook), double glazed CONSERVATORY, utility, fitted cloakroom. THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, walk in store, bathroom. Garage, landscaped garden. EPC: D.. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £199,950

New



KINGSWINFORD, Rangeways Road

A LARGE & EXTENDED LINK-DETACHED FAMILY HOME, approached just off Bromley Lane, enjoying IMMACULATE and BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED accommodation which includes 3 LARGE BEDROOMS With DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a generous and private rear garden. EPC D

£199,950



GORNAL WOOD, Summit Place

Tremendously enhanced, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed detached family home comprising; hall, cloakroom, transverse lounge, dining room, store, refitted kitchen with range of maple effect finish units. FOUR BEDROOMS, bathroom with white suite, garage, delightful gardens. EPC:C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £195,000



KINGSWINFORD, Ibis Gardens

A VERY SPACIOUS IMPROVED MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE within a popular cul de sac upon Sandpipers, offering a GENEROUS LAYOUT enhanced by a CONSERVATORY plus a LARGE DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and LOW MAINTENANCE GARDEN. EPC D

New price

£194,950



LOWER GORNAL, Woodland Grove

Just off Brick Kiln Lane; EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, primarily uPVC double glazed detached comprising; hall, lounge, dining room, store, kitchen, utility room, cloaks/shower room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £194,950, NOW £189,950



LOWER GORNAL, Flavells Lane

FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION ! - gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached comprising; porch hall lounge, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, shower room. To the first floor are two double bedrooms; 27 ft car port, delightful garden EPC:D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £184,950



SEDGLEY, Caswell Road

Meticulously maintained, EXTENDED & ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached convenient for Sedgley's Bull Ring comprising; porch, hall, dining room, pantry, extended lounge, kitchen, utility area, cloaks/shower room. Three bedrooms (third enlarged into eaves with velux sky light), bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £179,950



DUDLEY, New Bungalow, Mulberry Green
A distinctive, 2 (potentially 3) NEW BUILD, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed dormer style detached (with finishing details to purchasers requirements). The bungalow briefly comprises; reception hall, lounge (with bay & double French doors), dining room (potential third bedroom), well equipped kitchen with a range of 'Old English Cream' units, store, bathroom. To the first floor are; two bedrooms (one with en suite). Garage, gardens. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Brownswall Road
An attractive, conscientiously maintained, Freehold, gas centrally heated, majority uPVC double glazed semi detached in favoured district comprising; porch, hall, lounge, dining room with patio doors to CONSERVATORY, kitchen, pantry, Three bedrooms, shower room with white suite, toilet, further store. Lengthy garage, block paved driveway, expertly tended rear garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



WOLVERHAMPTON, Camberley Crescent, Ettingshall Park
Immaculately presented, extended, double glazed, gas centrally heated semi-detached providing versatile living accommodation as a personal inspection will confirm comprising; hall, lounge, dining area, kitchen, utility, bedroom four/ family room, three further bedrooms, shower room. Tarmacadam driveway, garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £169,950

Offers in the region of £169,000

Offers in the region of £164,950



KINGSWINFORD, Park Street
A VERY DECEPTIVE & STUNNING PERIOD TERRACED HOME, with a large rear garden, close to village shops, offering BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED accommodation, including TWO LARGE RECEPTION ROOMS, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS and large luxury first floor Bathroom. EPC: E



DUDLEY, Cardoness Place
ENLARGED, tremendously improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached with GOOD DISTANT VIEWS comprising; hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, CONSERVATORY, refitted kitchen, pantry, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, store. Gated driveway with BRICK GARAGE, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY/WOODSETTON, Roper Way
Stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; entrance hallway, 16'10" lounge, understairs store, REFITTED kitchen. Two bedrooms, bathroom (heated floor). 17'3" x 10'1" garage, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Ladbroke Grove, Straits
SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL - Bungalow requiring modernisation in well regarded area - with hall, two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, kitchen. Carport, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Park Road
A much improved, FABULOUSLY PRESENTED, EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed semi detached with good distant views from rear set in a popular/established neighbourhood. Accommodation includes; reception hall, 21 ft through living room, breakfast kitchen, and a further utility with separate toilet off. Three bedrooms, bathroom, driveway to front and good-sized rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

£159,950

Offers in the region of £153,950

Offers in the region of £130,000

New price WAS £134,950, NOW £125,000

Offers in the region of £124,950



DUDLEY, Old Park Road
ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached being conscientiously maintained & comprising; hall, living/dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom, loft. Parking, garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Central Drive
A most attractive, conscientiously maintained, freehold, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed semi detached in a popular/established neighbourhood with good distant views from the rear. Accommodation includes reception hall, pantry, lounge, breakfast kitchen, THREE bedrooms, bathroom, garden, off road parking to front. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Bramble Green, Old Park Farm
NO UPWARD CHAIN. Freehold, uPVC single glazed, part centrally heated SEMI DETACHED offering significant potential set upon established development and briefly including; reception hall, living room, kitchen-diner, pantry, lengthy utility area, store and downstairs wet room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Whitesmith Close
Situating within flat walking distance of the Bull Ring; spacious, gas radiator centrally heated, double glazed First Floor apartment forming part of development managed by Accord Housing Association for owners aged 55 or over with warden facilities & stairlift comprising; lounge/dining room, kitchen, inner hallway, two double bedrooms, shower room. Allocated parking, communal grounds. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



QUARRY BANK, Turner Drive
Enjoying a pleasant position within this popular location, this WELL PRESENTED AND EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, TWO BEDROOM HOME, briefly comprises; Porch, Kitchen, Sitting Room. Delightful Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom and Rear Garden. EPC: D

Offers in the region of £119,995

Offers in the region of £109,950

Offers in the region of £109,950

Offers in the region of £109,950

£108,950



UPPER GORNAL, Inhedge Street
Stylish, tremendously enhanced, modernised & improved, Freehold, uPVC DOUBLE GLAZED, gas centrally heated, traditional terrace in quiet "backwater". Accommodation provides; lounge, inner lobby, sitting room (WITH LOG BURNER), rear lobby, refitted kitchen with a range of "walnut" effect units. Two double bedrooms (one with wardrobes/one with cupboard) repointed bathroom with contemporary white suite. Garden. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY



WOODSETTON, Brook Street
Mid terrace for improvement with remarkable potential- surprisingly spacious accommodation provides; hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, 3 first floor bedrooms, steps to attic - garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY



COSELEY, Kenelm Road
ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, & part UPVC double glazed semi detached that has been conscientiously maintained over the years but would benefit from further modernisation works. Offering potential, accommodation comprises; reception hall, lounge, pantry, enlarged kitchen, sitting room, part uPVC double glazed verandah. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Parking, secluded garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY



LOWER GORNAL, Park Road
Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached with potential comprising hall, lounge, store, kitchen, dining room (with patio doors). Two double bedrooms, bathroom; separate toilet. Secluded rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



Brierley Hill, Springfield Road
THIS WELL APPOINTED AND BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME, should appeal to first time buyers and buy-to-let investors and comprises; Hall, Attractive Lounge, Guests W.C, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom and Large Garden. EPC: D.

Offers in the region of £102,000

Offers in the Region of £99,950

Offers in the region of £95,000

Offers in the region of £94,750

New price £91,950



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KINGSWINFORD



OAK STREET
FOR SALE £369,950
Detached Property comprising of Hall, Lounge, Family Room, Kitchen/Diner, Utility, Study, Conservatory, Four Bedrooms, En Suite, Shower, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Garage, Enclosed Frontage, Rear Garden.

WALL HEATH



MILLERS GREEN DRIVE
FOR SALE £294,995
Detached Property comprising of: Entrance Hall & WC, Lounge, IMPRESSIVE KITCHEN/DINER, FOUR BEDROOMS, en suite, Family Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, GARAGE.

DUDLEY



DIBDALE STREET
FOR SALE £117,500
End terrace property comprising of Entrance Hall with original tiled floor, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Loft Room, Large Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing (where specified), Gas Central Heating, Small Frontage, Rear garden.

UPPER GORNAL



HILL STREET
FOR SALE £73,950
Nicely Presented Leasehold First Floor One Bedroom Flat comprising of Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen with built in cooker, Bedroom, Bathroom. Benefits include Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

GORNAL



ROBERT STREET
£695 pcm*
Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Area, Four Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Integral Garage, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

KIDDERMINSTER



STOURPORT ROAD
£625 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Newly Fitted Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom with shower, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED

WORDSLEY



BRACKEN PARK GARDENS
£435 pcm*
Top Floor Flat, Large Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Electric Heating, Sealed Units, Off Road Parking

LYE



SUMMER STREET
£470 pcm*
Mid Terrace Property, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Part Furnished

BRIERLEY HILL



DELPH ROAD
£695 pcm*
Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Four Bedrooms, Two Bathrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens

DUDLEY



MONCRIEFF CLOSE
£415 pcm*
Purpose Built Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Private Parking, unfurnished

DUDLEY



BOURNE STREET
£375 pcm*
Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Large Bedroom, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Allocated Parking

KINGSWINFORD



HAZEL ROAD
£410 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

UPPER GORNAL



GOODRICH MEWS
£685 pcm*
Town House, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

WORDSLEY



BELLS LANE
£625 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Good Bedrooms, Shower Room, Separate Toilet, Garage, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

GREAT BRIDGE



EAGLE PLACE
£370 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Security Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom, Allocated Parking, Communal Grounds, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

WILLENHALL



VALE ROAD
£700 pcm*
Link Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Single Garage

TIPTON



DUDLEY PORT ROAD
£395 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off road parking, Maintained communal grounds, Unfurnished

WOMBOURNE



PLANKS LANE
£595 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD



BEECH ROAD
£425 pcm*
Refurbished First Floor Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Available Immediately.

AMBLECOTE



KING WILLIAM STREET
£380 pcm*
SHARED ACCOMMODATION, Part Furnished, Communal Kitchen & Bathroom, Two Bedrooms (occupied), FIRST FLOOR: Two Bedrooms, (one occupied), Office, Communal Toilet with wash hand basin, RENT INCLUDES UTILITY BILLS

GORNAL



TEMPLE STREET
£495 pcm*
Mid Terrace House, Good Sized Living Room, Kitchen, TWO BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Garden to Rear, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED

KINGSWINFORD



RAGES ROAD
£425 pcm*
Ground Floor Studio Flat, Lounge/Bedroom, Kitchen, Shower Room, Off Road Parking, Communal Gardens, Unfurnished

PENSNETT



COMMONSIDES
£425 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

NORTON



THE BROADWAY
£495 pcm*
Large Second Floor Flat, Entrance, Good Sized Lounge, Refitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garage, Gas Central Heating, UNFURNISHED, NO PETS, DSS CONSIDERED

(Administration/application fees will apply)

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NO LET NO FEE **NO SALE NO FEE**

PROPERTY

Family home includes a large breakfast kitchen



A four-bedroom link detached house in Elmwood Rise, Sedgley, Dudley has an extended breakfast kitchen.

On the Northway estate, it is for sale through Wakeman Estates at £249,950. Having a private rear garden, it has a porch, entrance hall with under-stairs storage, lounge and dining area, breakfast kitchen, integrated fridge, dishwasher, oven, utility room, cloakroom, master bedroom with wardrobe and en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom, garage and block paved driveway. Call 01902 885894 or visit www.wakeman-online.com



Five-bedroom semi is spacious

THIS spacious five-bedroom semi-detached house in Marshall Street, Smethwick, is for sale through Taylors at offers over £230,000.

With gas central heating and double glazing its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall (with downstairs WC off), a spacious lounge with double doors opening into a dining room with French doors to the garden, a fitted kitchen with fitted appliances. On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with a white modern suite and a shower screen. On the second floor are two bedrooms (master with en-suite shower room). There is a garage and rear garden. Contact Taylors on 0121 4344345 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



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AUCTION - 24th MARCH 2015

37

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, March 12, 2015



14 LONGDON AVENUE GOLDTHORN PARK, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well presented three bedroomed Semi., through lounge, Conservatory, kitchen, utility, bathroom, Gas CH., garage, attractive rear garden. EPC: D66

Guide: £140,000 / £145,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 10.00 a.m.**



193 DIXON STREET WOLVERHAMPTON

Investment

Mid Terraced, hall, lounge, kitchen, rear hall, wc., three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas CH, rear garden, off-road parking EPC: C.74

Guide: £65,000 / £70,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 10.30 a.m.**



84 BELMONT ROAD PENN, WOLVERHAMPTON

Detached House in popular district, hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, pantry, garden lounge, wc., three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas CH., large extended garage, garden with double gates on rear boundary. EPC: E.50

Guide: £120,000 / £125,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 11.00 a.m.**



426 PENN ROAD WOLVERHAMPTON

Large and impressive Freehold building converted to three flats -
Flat No. 2 (First Floor) breakfast room, lounge, inner landing, bedroom 1 with en suite shower, bedroom 2, w.c. EPC: F.34
Flat No. 3 (Second Floor) lounge / kitchen area, double bedroom, bathroom. EPC: G2
(NOTE: Ground Floor Flat No. 1 - in separate ownership and not included in sale).

Guide: £70,000 / £80,000

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 11.15 a.m.**



19 MILL LANE, TETTENHALL WOOD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Excellent location with open land to rear Spacious Semi, lounge, dining area, kitchen, pantry, three bedrooms, bathroom, Gas CH., garage & off-road parking, enclosed rear garden. EPC: C.73

Guide: £150,000 / £155,000

VIEWING:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th
MARCH @ 12.00 noon**



175 PENN ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

An impressive double fronted residence in prime location. Wide hall, through lounge, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, lobby, wc and store, fine landing, three double bedrooms, bathroom. Outside: loggia, lovely gardens with wooded backdrop. EPC: G19

Guide: £240,000 / £260,000

VIEWING: FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 13th & 14th MARCH @ 12.15 p.m.



PARADES OF LOCK-UP GARAGES

**r/o 67 / 73 BRIDGNORTH ROAD,
COMPTON, WOLVERHAMPTON**

Eleven (+ one derelict) in two parades

- seven currently let producing

£2,100 p.a.

Potential gross income £3,300 p.a.

Guide: £18,000 / £23,000



229 TRYSULL ROAD

WOLVERHAMPTON

Two

Large plot with road frontage.
Permission granted to demolish
garage and erect

Two x 4 Bedroomed Detached Houses

Guide £180,000 / £190,000

VIEW FROM ROAD FRONTAGE

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

(subject to conditions and prior sale)

on TUESDAY 24th MARCH 2015 @ 6.30 p.m.

At the Ramada Park Hall Hotel

Park Drive, Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, WV4 5AJ

Please Register for Catalogue

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK
PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.

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3 Bed Hailstone Close, ROWLEY REGIS

NEW

IDEAL FAMILY HOME! A three bedroom semi-detached home in need of cosmetic modernisation situated in this popular cul-de-sac location backing onto the golf course. The property is well positioned for access to the West Midlands road network and local town centres and benefits from accommodation to comprise of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room and to the first floor is three bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating, secondary glazing, off road parking, landscaped front and rear gardens.

EPC : D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£144,950**

2 Bed Ashes Road, OLDBURY

NEW

Wow! This house offers an abundance of accommodation for the money, with three reception rooms and two double bedrooms, one with en-suite toilet. The property is in great condition generally and has double glazing and gas central heating. The back garden must be over 100m long and is well tended. This is a fantastic location within just a few minutes drive of Junction 2 of the M5 and is within walking distance of Rowley Regis Train Station with routes in to Birmingham and Wolverhampton Available with No Upward Chain, an early viewing really will be essential to avoid disappointment.

EPC: TBC

Netherton Office Offers Around **£92,500**

3 Bed Cradley Road, NETHERTON

NEW PRICE

First time buyers and young families should take this opportunity to purchase a three bedroom semi detached home in this convenient location near to shops, schools and amenities. The property needs some cosmetic updating so is ideal for those who want to put their own stamp on their new home. The property comprises of Porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, driveway and garage to the front and a private rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN.

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Around **£119,995**

3 Bed Lodgefield Road, HALESOWEN

NEW PRICE

We are pleased to offer this three bedroom detached family home located in the sought after Lodgefield Estate in Halesowen close to local schools, amenities and road links and with the added benefit of being just a 10 minute walk from Old Hill Train Station. This is an excellent opportunity for families and couples alike. The property comprises of hallway, Lounge, conservatory, newly fitted kitchen with utility area, downstairs w.c. and a double bedroom. To the front is a blocked paved driveway for at least three cars and a garage. The property is gas centrally heated and double glazed. A viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the standard of accommodation on offer.

EPC: D

Netherton Office **£185,000**

3 Bed Queens Drive, ROWLEY REGIS

The Property Shop is pleased to offer this spacious three bedroom semi detached home. The traditional property benefits from a south facing rear garden, blocked paved driveway, large lounge, kitchen diner, utility, three bedrooms and family bathroom with whirlpool corner bath and waterfall style shower head over. Situated in a really convenient spot, within just a few minutes drive of Junction 2 of the M5 motorway. An early viewing is recommended to not miss out on this great family home and to fully appreciate the accommodation on offer.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£150,000**

3 Bed Heath Road, NETHERTON

FOR SALE BY MODERN METHOD OF AUCTION. A great opportunity for an investor - being reduced in price to reflect the limited lending available due to the Cornish Construction of the neighbouring properties. Although this property has undergone remedial works for the construction, mortgage lenders will not accept that the properties either side have not had remedial works carried out. This mid terrace home is surprisingly spacious and has a wonderful sized rear garden. The frontage to the property can be used for parking, however, the kerb has not been lowered but is not very high. On the ground floor there is a recently redecorated lounge with feature fireplace and big window to the front aspect. To the rear is a large kitchen with space for a dining table that over looks the rear garden with outbuildings, patio, lawn and mixed decking area. On the first floor are two double bedrooms, a decent size third bedroom and a family bathroom with white suite and shower over the bath. An early viewing is recommended. NO UPWARD CHAIN.

FOR SALE BY MODERN AUCTION EPC: D

Netherton Office Starting Bid **£75,000**

3 Bed Halesowen Road, CRADLEY HEATH

NEW

We are pleased to offer For Sale this spacious three bedroom detached home situated in this highly convenient location with excellent access to all local amenities, the local road network and good access to Old Hill Train Station. The property offers good sized accommodation to comprise of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and to the first floor is three bedrooms and a bathroom. Also benefits from Gas central heating, double glazing, large driveway providing off road parking for a number of vehicles, good sized garage and rear garden! Call us today on 01384 456022 to arrange your viewing!

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£154,950**

4 Bed Trinity Street, CRADLEY HEATH

NEW

This four bedroom mid terrace home is just a stone's throw from Reddall Hill Primary and local shops and amenities. The well presented accommodation comprises of a lounge, dining kitchen, three bedrooms and house bathroom on the first floor and a further bedroom in the loft conversion. The property also benefits from a cellar providing ideal storage, a low maintenance rear garden and is gas centrally heated and double glazed.

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Around **£119,950**

1 Bed Brett Young Close, HALESOWEN

NEW PRICE

ATTENTION FIRST TIME BUYERS! Are you looking for your perfect part? If so, this one bedroom, first floor apartment could be exactly what you are after! Being immaculately presented for you to just move your things in and with the benefit of the remainder of its WBC guarantee, you don't need to worry about doing anything! Brett Young Close is a popular, modern development within walking distance of Halesowen Town Centre and Bus Station with routes in to Birmingham and Stourbridge. There is also the added benefit of being just a 5 minute drive from Junction 2 of the M5 motorway. This property is double glazed, gas centrally heated and has allocated parking for you and your visitors. NO UPWARD CHAIN.

EPC: B

Netherton Office Offers Around **£89,950**

3 Bed Buckingham Road, ROWLEY REGIS

NEW PRICE

This three bedroom detached property is situated in this quiet and popular location within less than a 5 minute drive to both Junction 2 of the M5 and Rowley Regis Train Station. Public transport links in to Birmingham, Halesowen and Dudley are also easily accessible. This is an excellent opportunity for a plethora of buyers, the property is positioned on a corner plot with possible extension opportunity (subject to planning permission). The property has accommodation comprising of Entrance Hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazed, gas central heating, drive way and garage to the front and rear garden. Also with the added benefit of NO UPWARD CHAIN.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£138,950**

3 Bed Ardley Close, DUDLEY

NEW

Set in a quiet cul de sac location Ardley Close is a perfect first time buy or investment opportunity. Ardley Close will particularly appeal to people looking to put their own stamp on a property. The property is situated in walking distance to Dudley Town Centre that also has a bus station. Dudley Park is in close proximity together with some local shops at nearby Dixons Green. The property comprises of: Entrance porch, lounge/diner, kitchen/diner, three spacious bedrooms, family shower room, double glazing, front and rear garden and a garage in a separate block. The property also benefits from no upward chain.

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Around **£94,950**

4 Bed Haden Hill Road, HALESOWEN

NEW

Only 15 to different, its spacious, its private and its got fantastic corner links, what more do you want? Here about... lots of off-road parking! Yes, it's got that too, plus a garage! This is a real find almost certainly FINE! For those who either own a large driveway or when they have a new car and garage for rear or off they want to drive it, here we have done just what they need, a complete garage and drive for the very private convenience. The driveway is finished with a driveway, driveway w.c. and a fully accessible from both front and back, which is ideal for after hours study like idea and general (space) has four bedrooms and a large bathroom with bath and separate shower, a lovely just for those who have the house. This property has more to offer than these pages could show, so call now for a viewing and find out how to make it your own!

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£310,000**

2 Bed Cradley Road, NETHERTON

NEW PRICE

ATTENTION FIRST TIME BUYERS! We are pleased to offer this two bedroom traditional semi detached home benefiting from a blocked paved driveway to the front, double glazing and central heating. The property is in a convenient location between Netherton and Cradley Heath - you would be within walking distance of shops, schools, bus stops and within excellent access of Cradley Heath Train Station with regular links in to Birmingham City Centre. The accommodation comprises of two reception rooms, kitchen with extended dining area, ground floor shower room and two bedrooms on the first floor. A viewing is recommended to fully appreciate this property and see how you could make it your own! No upward chain.

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Around **£109,950**

3 Bed Lantern Road, DUDLEY WOOD

A superbly renovated detached family home set in a highly sought after location. The property is positioned close to local schools with amenities also close by. A viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the standard of accommodation on offer. The property comprises of: Entrance hall, through lounge dining room, L shaped kitchen, ground floor w.c. breakfast/sun room, three good sized bedrooms, family bathroom, en suite to the master bedroom, gas central heating and double glazing, drive way to the front and rear garden.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Invited **£219,950**

2 Bed Dudley Wood Road, DUDLEY WOOD

ATTENTION FIRST TIME BUYERS! The Property Shop are pleased to offer this well presented two bedroom mid terrace home situated in this ever sought after area of Dudley Wood offering excellent access to Dudley Wood Primary School and other local amenities. The property is also within walking distance of Cradley Heath Train Station with regular links to Birmingham City Centre and is a short walk from bus stops to the Mary Hill Shopping Centre. The property benefits from accommodation to comprise of two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Bathroom, Utility Room, Cellar, Two Double Bedrooms to the first floor with access to a flooded lift space. The property also benefits from being gas centrally heated, Double Glazed with a landscaped rear garden.

EPC: E

Netherton Office Offers Over **£100,000**

2 Bed Tansley Hill Avenue, DUDLEY

GREAT PROPERTY FOR A FIRST TIME BUYER OR A BUY TO LET INVESTOR! Perfectly priced for those just starting out or for someone needing a good rental yield. Tansley Hill Avenue is set in a popular residential estate near to local shops and schools. The location is ideal for those needing to get to public transport or commute, it's just a 10 minute drive to Rowley Regis Train Station and an even shorter drive to Junction 2 of the M5. The property consists of: Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Ground floor w.c., two good sized bedrooms, family bathroom, central heating and double glazing, drive way to the front and rear garden.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£79,950**

6 Bed Buffery Road, DUDLEY

WOW! A rare opportunity to purchase a SIX BEDROOM semi detached family home. This is a fantastic purchase for the larger family or possibly as a dual investment for conversion to multiple occupancy accommodation (subject to planning permission). Buffery Road is a popular position for families with Dudley bus to the dual location to bus routes to Dudley Town Centre and other local areas. The property is within walking distance of parks and Waterside Hill Nature Reserve. The property offers the following accommodation: Entrance hall, two reception rooms, kitchen diner, ground floor shower room, down stairs bedroom third reception room, four bedrooms on the first floor and a lot bedroom, driveway to the front providing parking for a number of vehicles and rear garden.

EPC: D

Netherton Office Offers Around **£215,000**

2 Bed Quayside Walk, NETHERTON

This modern apartment offers views over the canal and would make an ideal purchase for a first time buyer. This third floor property is immaculately presented and has accommodation comprising of: Entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms with en-suite shower to master bedroom and main bathroom. This popular development is conveniently located near to public transport routes and local amenities. There is the added benefit of allocated parking and secure intercom entry system. A viewing is strongly recommended to fully appreciate this property.

EPC: C

Netherton Office Offers In Excess **£105,000**

Website : www.thepropertyshop.co.uk

Email: info@thepropertyshop.co.uk



Stourbridge Sales & Lettings : 01384 444 645

Halesowen Sales & Lettings : 0121 585 5081

Netherton and Dudley Sales & Lettings : 01384 456 022

3 Bed Abingdon Road, NETHERTON



NEW

EPC: E

Located on the popular 'Pepperfields Estate', this property offers well presented accommodation to suit first time buyers and families alike. There is a block paved driveway to the front and a garage to the rear. Being offered with no upward chain so you could move in really quickly! Within walking distance of shops, amenities and schools along with being located just a short walk from bus stops, an early viewing of this three bedroom home is strongly recommended!

Netherton Office

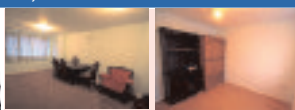
Offers Around
£129,950

7 Bed

Gibson Drive, SMETHWICK



NEW



A rare opportunity! This well presented, three storey family home offers spacious and well planned accommodation boasting seven bedrooms, two reception rooms, utility kitchen, office room, downstairs cloakroom together with two further bathrooms and separate shower room. This would really suit a large family or someone looking for a property to convert into a HMO. This property is conveniently situated close to most amenities, and benefitting from central heating, double glazing and off road parking. Having the added benefit of being a very short walk from the nearest train station and being less than a 5 minute drive away from Junction 1 of the M5. An early viewing is recommended.

EPC: C

Netherton Office

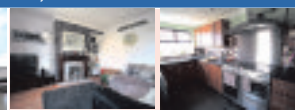
Offers Around
£230,000

3 Bed

Beech Avenue, HALESOWEN



NEW



This immaculately presented three bedroom home has more than initially meets the eye, the surprisingly spacious accommodation comprises of an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, ground floor w.c., three good sized bedrooms, attic room, attractive fitted bathroom and outside the property there is off road parking to the front and a low maintenance garden to the rear. This property is located in a popular residential estate near to the amenities of Blackheath and is within walking distance of Rowley Regis Train Station. An early viewing is highly recommended to not miss out on this fantastic property!

EPC: E

Netherton Office

Offers Around
£129,950

3 Bed Round Street, NETHERTON



NEW

FOR SALE BY MODERN AUCTION

EPC: D

For Sale By Modern Method of Auction. Starting bid price £84,950 plus reservation fee. The property will be offered for sale on Wednesday 18th March 2015 at Midweek Station, Wolverhampton. Registration at 8.30 pm, with auction starting at 7.30 pm. A well presented three bedroom semi detached home offering a fantastic opportunity for first time buyers or buy to let investors. Accommodation briefly comprises of: entrance hall, lounge, refitted kitchen with dining area, utility room, garage storage space, three well proportioned bedrooms, recently refitted shower room, low maintenance rear garden, front garden which provides off road parking. Viewing highly recommended.

Netherton Office

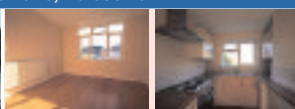
Starting Bid
£84,950

2 Bed

Old Hawne Lane, HALESOWEN



NEW



Situated in a popular location this fabulous two bedroom semi detached property is like a new home. Having undergone extensive refurbishment this beautifully presented property will make a lovely home. The well presented and spacious accommodation briefly comprises of a light and airy entrance hallway, open plan lounge and dining area with French doors to the rear garden, newly fitted kitchen, utility room and store room. On the first floor are two double bedrooms and the newly fitted bathroom. The property is available with no upward chain. Viewing highly recommended

EPC: TBC

Netherton Office

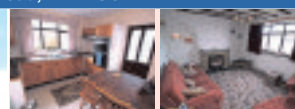
Offers Around
£149,950

2 Bed

Holcroft Road, HALESOWEN



SOLD STC



We are delighted to offer for sale this good sized two bedroom detached bungalow situated in this sought after area of Halesowen and offering loads of potential. The property has gas centrally heated and double glazed accommodation to comprise of: Two double bedrooms, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility area. Outside benefits from off road parking, garage and front and rear gardens. With NO UPWARD CHAIN, viewing is a must!

EPC: D

Netherton Office

Offers Around
£129,950

SIMILAR PROPERTIES REQUIRED

3 Bed New Village, DUDLEY WOOD



NEW PRICE

EPC: F

An opportunity to acquire a three bedroom semi detached family home situated in the popular residential location of Dudley Wood. This is a sought after area due to the close proximity to local schools and amenities and the property is ideal for families and couples alike. Internally there is a partially double glazed accommodation in need of both central heating and refurbishment to comprise of: Entrance hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs w.c., three bedrooms and family bathroom. Having the added benefit of double glazing (when specified), drive way to the front for a couple of cars, rear garden housing a detached garage/garden/hobby. A viewing is recommended to fully appreciate the accommodation and to see how you can put your stamp on this great home! NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Netherton Office

Offers Over
£125,000

2 Bed

Chichester Avenue, NETHERTON



NEW PRICE

EPC: D

The Property Shop is pleased to offer this two bedroom, double glazed mid terrace property situated on the sought after 'Beeches Estate' close to local schools, shops and road links. This is an excellent opportunity for first time buyers looking for a starter home and investors alike due to the high rental demand in the area. The property has accommodation comprising: Entrance hall, lounge diner, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden. To the front of the property is a drive way and there is the added benefit of a garage in a nearby block. Call us NOW to book an early viewing so as to not miss out on this great prospect!

Netherton Office

Offers Around
£97,950

2 Bed

Tree Acre Grove, HALESOWEN



NEW PRICE

EPC: F

Investment opportunity, the property is currently rented out earning £5,400 pa. The property being in Halesowen is on the outskirts of Birmingham and has proved hard to be a popular location for commuters who wish to travel into the city centre. The property is situated close to road links being M56/M42 within a few minutes drive. The area boasts three large secondary schools, primary schools and Halesowen College provides further education. The lovely property consists of: Entrance hall, spacious lounge, breakfast kitchen, two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, family bathroom with white suite, outside terrace area with storage, communal gardens and benefits from no upward chain.

Netherton Office

Offers Around
£69,950

3 Bed

Chichester Avenue, NETHERTON



NEW PRICE

EPC: D

A rare opportunity to acquire this three bedroom end of terrace on this ever popular estate close to all amenities. This is an excellent opportunity for families and couples alike. The property comprises of: Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge diner, three bedrooms, good size family bathroom, drive way and integral garage to the front and rear garden. A viewing is recommended for this highly popular estate.

Netherton Office

Offers Over
£115,000

3 Bed

Yew Tree Lane, ROWLEY REGIS



NEW PRICE

EPC: D

This is a great opportunity to purchase a well maintained, modern, three bedroom detached family home. Being situated in a popular residential location close to local schools, amenities and road links makes it an excellent property for couples and families alike. The property is approached via a driveway to the front leading to entrance hall, having access to the first floor accommodation and door leading to: Lounge with pathway to dining room and door leading to Kitchen, having under stairs storage and door to rear garden. The first floor comprises of three good size bedrooms, one with an en-suite and family bathroom.

Netherton Office

Offers Around
£175,000

2 Bed Golden Hillock Road, NETHERTON



EPC: C

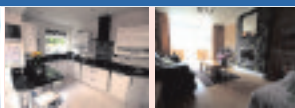
A well presented two bedroom semi-detached home available with No Upward Chain which offers a potential rental yield of around 7.5% per annum. The property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and has accommodation to comprise of: entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen, downstairs w.c. and to the first floor are two good sized bedrooms and a modern bathroom. The property also benefits from front and rear gardens.

Netherton Office

Offers Around
£87,500

3 Bed

Forest Road, OLDBURY



A much improved and extended three double bedroom home. Situated in this highly convenient location with excellent access to all local amenities and Birmingham City centre. The property offers good sized accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Two good sized reception rooms, Extended kitchen diner, utility room, downstairs w.c., to the first floor is three double bedrooms with en-suite to main bedroom and family bathroom. The property also benefits from being double glazed, gas centrally heated with ample off road parking, integral garage and rear garden.

EPC: D

Netherton Office

Offers Around
£234,950

3 Bed Griffin Street, NETHERTON



EPC: E

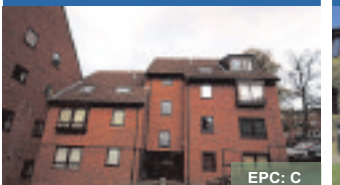
An opportunity to purchase a deceptively spacious and well maintained three bedroom modern semi detached family home conveniently situated just a short walk away from the local amenities of Netherton village, schools and road links. The property is also within good access of Merry Hill Centre. There is accommodation to comprise of: large entrance hall, lounge, CONSERVATORY, newly fitted kitchen diner, three good sized bedrooms, family bathroom, double glazing and gas central heating with recently fitted boiler, garage and drive to the front, good sized rear garden housing a brick built out building and summerhouse. A viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the size of accommodation on offer.

Netherton Office

Offers Around
£136,950

2 Bed

Moncrieffe Close, Dudley



EPC: C

The Property Shop is pleased to offer this opportunity for a buyer to acquire a well maintained, two bedroom ground floor flat. This property is situated in a popular residential location close to local amenities, bus and road links and is priced ideally for first time buyers or buy to let investors. The property comprises of: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, fitted bathroom, double glazing and allocated parking space.

Netherton Office

£75,000

2 Bed

Windmill End, NETHERTON



EPC: C

A recently refurbished two bedroom mid-terrace home. Situated in this convenient access with excellent access to all local amenities. The property offers immaculate accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Porch, Lounge, Re-fitted Kitchen, to the first floor is two good sized bedrooms and a modern bathroom. The property also benefits from Gas Central Heating (Where Stated), Double Glazing (Where Stated) with off road parking and rear garden. With NO UPWARD CHAIN, an early viewing is highly recommended to avoid disappointment!

Netherton Office

Offers Around
£95,000



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Celerio for no-nonsense

Commercial feature

Suzuki has had a tough time in the past few years and when pressed, its UK importers tend to hold up their hands and put the blame squarely on global exchange rates.

Yes, those same exchange rates that saw Daihatsu pull out of the UK and Subaru discover that the relative strength of the yen versus the pound made its cars as expensive as some BMWs and Audis. We have every sympathy for Suzuki.

Subaru were pretty much hosed for a while because all of its manufacturing base was in Japan, so it bore the full brunt of the fiscal fluctuations. Suzuki has boxed a bit cleverer and has leveraged its longstand-



ing association with Maruti in India to bring us the Celerio citycar. Can it compete with some very sophisticated rivals in the UK? More to the point, does it even need to?

The one-litre three-cylinder petrol engine develops a total of 66bhp at 6,000rpm and 89Nm of torque at 3,500rpm, so you're going to need to give the throttle pedal a bit of treatment to get anywhere.

There's plenty of space in the cabin for five occupants. The boot is vast for a city car, with a capacity of 254-litres.

The Celerio is tasked with pensioning off both the Splash and the Alto in the Suzuki range, which is quite a weight of responsibility to land on its narrow shoulders. Built in Thailand, it's clearly targeting the value end of the city car market.

Prices start at around £8,000 for the SZ3 version, rising to around £9,000 for the plusher SZ4.

Standard specification highlights for the Celerio SZ3 includes six airbags (Driver, passenger, side and curtain), ESP stability control, air conditioning, alloy wheels, DAB Radio, CD Tuner, USB, Bluetooth connectivity and remote central locking. The even higher equipped SZ4 model adds polished alloy wheels, rear electric windows, front fog lamps, body coloured door mirrors and chrome front grille. The Celerio is offered in six colours, of which five are optional metallic finish and one a standard solid colour.

Also available is Suzuki's Auto Gear Shift (AGS) transmission featuring an intelligent shift control actuator positioned at the top of the gearbox that operates the gearshift and clutch automatically.

The one-litre triple engine makes some very respectable figures, eking 65.7 miles from a gallon of unleaded and emitting just 99g/km of carbon dioxide. Go for the AGS-equipped model and things get even



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Suzuki reckon on emissions of just 84g/km, some of the lowest for such a conventional petrol-engined car

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better. Suzuki reckon on emissions of just 84g/km, which is one of the very lowest figures for a conventional petrol-engined car. If you were expecting something cheap and primitive when you saw that Maruti association, think again.

The Suzuki Celerio is always going to be overshadowed by state of the art city slickers like the Volkswagen Up or the Renault Twingo, but it was never really designed to compete with the more high-end offerings of the city car sector.

It's easy to overlook the fact that after the Hyundai i10 and the Volkswagen Up, the biggest selling citycar in the UK in 2014 was the Suzuki Alto. The Celerio looks set to do even better than the Alto, with its super-low emissions and clever transmission.

If you want a car that is utterly no-nonsense, easy to use and which we'd bet will prove to be extremely reliable, the Celerio demonstrates that these qualities needn't cost you the earth.

The fact that it's well-equipped and is incredibly cheap to run is just the icing on the cake. It might not seem an obvious hit on first acquaintance, but give this one time. We think it could be the sleeper hit of the year.

ALL-NEW SUZUKI CELERIO. SPEC-TACULAR.

Comfortably spacious, the compact Celerio has plenty inside to make you smile. For starters, there's air-con and Bluetooth. Plus it's easy to drive. And when you consider it's now available from £149.09 per month* on Suzuki Personal Contact Purchase, what's not to like?

Contact Halesowen Motor House today.

Representative example Celerio SZ4 5dr										
41 monthly payments of	Customer Deposit	Cash Price	Duration of Agreement	Final Payment	Total Amount of Credit	Total Amount Payable	Purchase Fee (included)	Credit Facility Fee (Included)	Interest Rate (Fixed)	Representative APR
£149.09	£1,400.00	£8,999	43 months	£2,989.00	£7,599.00	£10,650.78	£0.00	£0.00	8.5%	8.9%

Request a Test Drive today: suzuki.co.uk/halesowenmotorhouse
Halesowen Motor House
Dudley Road Halesowen West Midlands B63 3NH **0121 503 0001**

Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Celerio range mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Urban 55.3-68.9 (5.3-4.1), Extra Urban 76.3-83.0 (3.7-3.4), Combined 65.7-78.4 (4.3-3.6), CO₂ emissions 99-84 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *This offer is available from 1st January 2015 to 31st March 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. This offer relates to Suzuki Personal Contract Purchase (PCP Finance Deal). All prices are correct at the time of going to print. Credit is available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Contract based on 6,000 miles per annum. For full details contact your local Suzuki Dealer. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. This offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands & Isle of Man). Suzuki Financial Services Limited, part of Lloyds Banking Group: St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to Suzuki Financial Services. Model shown: Celerio SZ4 (metallic paint available at £415). For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

Search/SuzukiCarsUK



Welcome to Oak Garage at Cornbow Halesowen and quality used vehicles

Commercial feature

When it comes to finding value and high quality used vehicles Oak Garage at Sterling Park, Merry Hill takes a lot of beating. What's more, the team can provide all this, plus a customer service experience that will entice you back again when it's time to replace your car.

Established in 1971 Oak Garage has gained an enviable reputation for delivering quality and value. As an official Motability Partner, the dealership offers ex-Motability cars sourced straight from the organisation itself.

These vehicles will have been properly maintained to manufacturer standard and regularly valeted throughout their lifetime.

Any minor paint or body damage will have been removed and all will have main dealer stamps in the service book. A considerable number may also still be covered under the manufacturer's warranty and most will carry extremely low mileages being no more than three years old.

Showcases

Whilst Oak Garage in Sterling Park, next to Merry Hill, displays its vehicles within a spacious new showroom, this friendly independent specialist dealership often showcases its vehicles at various popular retail centres in Halesowen, Dudley and across the surrounding area.

Final preparations are now underway to display vehicles on a large stand within the Cornbow Centre in Halesowen so that shoppers can view Oak Garage's 'star cars' when visiting the town's largest retail complex.

From today and for the next six months, Oak Garage will be presenting one of its cars on the stand situated between Druckers Vienna Patisserie and Asda at the bottom of the escalator. These vehicles will be regularly changed to give shoppers an ideal opportunity to see the sheer breadth and variety of cars available at the dealership.

For much of the time the stand will be manned. A computer is being set up so that stand visitors can view all 50 cars available at the Merry Hill dealership through a 'virtual showroom.'

Requirements

What's more, because Oak Garage is one of the larger ex-Motability fleet car suppliers, the sales team have access to Motability's entire ex-fleet database where over 1,000 cars can be seen online, any one of which can be quickly sourced and supplied, taking into account all your personal requirements.

Oak Garage's unique 'All Inclusive Package' also includes an HPI Vehicle History check and pre-delivery valet and access to low rate finance facilities from Close Motor Finance and MotoNovo, two of the best names in the business.

Be sure to visit Oak Garage's stand at The Cornbow Centre, Halesowen from this Thursday as with more than 1,000 superb ex-Motability vehicles available at any one time, they are bound to be able to find a car that exactly matches your needs and lifestyle at a price you can afford.

To find out more call 01384 75097 or visit their excellent website by logging onto www.oakgarage.co.uk

You can also visit Oak Garage's new showroom at Units 1-2 Sterling Park, Merry Hill, DY5 1TB.



OakGarage.co.uk

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13 Mazda2 1.5 TS2 Auto Silver 3k Only 3000 Miles	£8,495
13 Zafira 1.6 Exclusiv Bronze Only 3000 Miles	£9,995
61 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Silver Only 4000 Miles	£11,295
60 C3 1.6 Exclusive Auto Red Only 5000 Miles	£6,995
62 Note 1.6 N-Tec+ Auto Blue Only 6000 Miles	£8,795
61 Corsa 1.4 SE 3dr Auto Only 8000 Miles	£7,795
59 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Blue Only 8000 Miles	£7,995
61 Note 1.6 N-Tec Auto Silver Only 9000 Miles	£7,995
11 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Red Only 10000 Miles	£10,495
63 C4 Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Silver Only 10000 Miles	£12,995
61 Micra 1.2 Acenta Silver Only 10000 Miles	£6,295
59 C3 Picasso 1.6 HDI Exclusive Red Only 11000 Miles	£7,995
61 Gr Modus 1.5 DCI Dynamique Silver Only 11000 Miles	£6,995
61 Kia Soul 2 1.6 GDI Black Only 12000 Miles	£8,795
62 Seat Leon 1.6 TDI SE Copa White Only 12000 Miles	£10,795
11 Mini One 1.6 Orange Only 12000 Miles	£8,795

Citroen

61 C3 1.4 VTR+ Blue 16k	£6,995
10 C4 G Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Silver 21k	£10,495
10 C4 G Picasso 1.6 HDI VTR+ Blue 33k	£7,795

Ford

12 Focus 1.6 Zetec Blue 18k	£9,495
12 Fiesta 1.2 Zetec Silver 18k	£7,995
60 Fiesta 1.25 Zetec 5dr Red 22k	£7,495
10 Fiesta 1.6 Titanium Red 41k	£7,495
56 Fusion 1.4 Zetec Semi Auto Blue 43k	£3,995

Nissan

13 Note 1.4 N-Tec+ Red 15k	£8,995
61 Juke 1.6 Acenta Red 19k	£9,795
61 Qashqai 1.5 DCI Acenta Red 24k	£10,995

Peugeot

10 Partner 1.4 Wh/Chair Access Silver 14k	£5,995
61 207 1.4 HDI Active 3dr Silver 20k	£6,795
61 308 1.6 HDI Access Vapour Grey 22k	£8,995
59 308 1.6 GT Coupe Cab Blue 25k	£8,995

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Sales Team On Our New Stand In
Cornbow Shopping Center
Halesowen

Renault

61 Gr Modus 1.6 Dynamique Auto Blue 15k	£5,995
60 Kangoo 1.6 Wheel/Chair Access Auto Red 15k	£8,995
61 Gr Modus 1.6 Dynamique Auto Ice Blue 24k	£5,995
57 Scenic 1.6 Dynamique Black 39k	£3,495

Vauxhall

12 Corsa 1.4 SE Auto Silver 13k	£7,995
13 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv Brown 18k	£8,495
11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exc Auto Blue 25k	£6,295
05 Corsa 1.2 Life Silver 31k	£2,995
59 Astra 1.6 Design Grey 32k	£5,995
05 Astra 1.4 Club Silver 73k	£3,795
08 Astra 1.6 Twin Top Red	£3,695

Other

57 Dodge Caliber 2.0 SX CVT Auto Red 73k	£3,995
60 Lotus Evora 4 3.5 V6 +2 Silver 30k	£30,495

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Representative Example: C4 G Picasso AO61 JBX. Cash Price £9995 Cash Deposit £100, P/X £1422.73
Total Deposit £1522.73. Balance £8472.27. Acceptance Fee £199, Option To Purchase Fee £199,
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By Ian Donaldson

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 14/14 VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi TOURER AUTOMATIC
 Red, 5,000 miles **£13995**
 12/12 VAUXHALL CORSA VXR 1.6T Arden Blue, 7,000 miles **£12495**
 13/13 VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION Red, 15,000 miles **£8995**
 08/08 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2i SXi 3 door, A/C, Black, 68,000 miles **£4450**
 14/14 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.0 CDTi (115PS) Sportive Van 2.9t Euro 5 LWB Diesel,
 White, Delivery miles **£13,995+VAT**
 14/14 VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 SWB Diesel, New Shape/New Model,
 Silver, delivery miles **£14,995+VAT**
 12/61 PEUGEOT 207 Convertible Sport, Black, 16,000 miles..... **£7550**
 08/08 ZAFIRA 1.9 ENERGY GDTi Auto, Blue, 27,000 miles..... **£6995**
 13/63 CORSA 1.2 Limited Edition White, 3-door, 7,500 miles **£9250**
 11/11 ASTRA SRI 1.6 Auto, Silver, 42,000 miles **£6995**
 13/13 INSIGNIA 1.8 Exclusiv Blue, 5-door, 33,000 miles..... **£8495**
 13/13 INSIGNIA 1.8 Exclusiv Grey, 5-door, 33,000 miles..... **£8250**
 11/11 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5-dr, Silver, 35,000 miles **£6995**
 13/13 VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDTi Exclusiv 5 door, Black, 11k miles... **£12995**
 11/61 VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4i 16V Excite Black, 5 door, 12k miles..... **£7250**
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CREDIT PROBLEMS - NO PROBLEM!!!

Shock, horror! Ford has put a diesel engine in the Focus ST for the first time. Is it the end of performance Fords as we know them, or just another chapter in an enduring Anglo-American love story?

The engine in question is a tuned-up version of the same 2.0-litre one you'll find elsewhere in the Focus range, so it's far from being any sort of race-bred or sports-inspired motor. Instead, it gives Ford's hatch-back standard bearer low running costs for the first time ever.

Here's an eyebrow-raiser for the purists: there are no visual differences between this and the full-fat 247bhp petrol-engined hooligan-mobile.

None.

You also get the same choice of colours, including the new Stealth Grey ably modelled by the 'Wagon' estate you see in the pictures.

The petrol Focus ST has earned a reputation as a bit of a lout and we love it for that. It's not the most powerful hot hatch but every one of its horses runs riot at the first chance. The diesel simply can't walk the same walk, but its styling talks the talk and will command respect.

If you're desperately scratching for ways to make a case to your better half in favour of buying an ST, you could technically argue that the lowered suspension makes it easier to get bags in and out of the boot. Those springs do create something of a busy ride, though.

Rejoice, for the awful dashboard of the previous model has been replaced with a much neater setup, divided into three sections covering audio, heating and infotainment. The latter comes courtesy of an eight-inch touch-screen jewelled with colourful graphics and the capacity for split-screen usefulness.

Limits

The diesel pulls hard out of bends through second and third, tugging at the steering wheel even in the dry, but soon, from the gloriously figure-hugging front seats, you realise you've reached its limits. It's good fun, but it still sounds like a diesel and its performance ceiling is much lower than its petrol twin's. The Wagon has a slightly dubious power-steering calibration, too, with a strong urge to self-centre all the time.

Mind you, when you press on along a twisty road you get a glimpse of its impressive balance and outright cross-country potential. It's like a gazelle after a heavy lunch; ultimately agile and alert, but hampered by a bit of extra weight that it's better off without.

It makes more sense as a fast cruiser, where its more laid-back engine dynamics and stable chassis gobble up miles like kids unleashed upon free chocolate. If only that ride quality wasn't so persistently active.

Buying diesel brings you a road tax bill of a piffling £20 per year.

And if you're as gentle as a breeze in Toytown in your dealings with the throttle, apparently you could get 67mpg. But don't count on it.

On the other hand the diesel is exactly the same price as the petrol, making even the top-spec ST-3 a very tempting £25,995 – a good chunk cheaper than its rivals. You'll be asked for £22,195 for an ST-1 model but don't pay it. Some measure of dealer discount should be offered on all versions.

The petrol ST is for out-and-out thrill-seekers. The sort of people who enjoy bungee-jumping over shark-infested waters while drinking black market tequila with Tabasco sauce chasers. The diesel is designed for people who want the ST's looks and a measure of the performance, but with running costs that are much less likely to cause heart problems.

If this car was a ... bakery showpiece it would be a three-tier, ultra-indulgent iced fruit cake, but with half the fat.

TESTED

Ford Focus ST TDCi, from £22,195

Engine: Four-cylinder diesel producing 182bhp and 295lb/ft

Transmission: Six-speed manual driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 135mph, 0-62mph in 8.1 seconds

Fuel Economy: 67.3mpg

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Insignia – back to the front?

By David Banner

Welcome to Britain's best selling traditional family car. Yes, you heard that right Vauxhall's Insignia. Launched in 2008 as a more stylish replacement for the uninspiring Vectra, this model was instantly well received, carrying off the coveted 2009 Car of the Year title and racking up impressive sales at the same time as other mainstream brands were struggling.

This improved model has had a thorough chassis update tested on proper bumpy British roads, with a redesigned rear suspension system to improve ride comfort and a steering calibration refreshment that's brought a more direct feel through the corners.

And both of those issues can be further improved if you tick the extra-cost box for the FlexRide adaptive damping system.

You can't fault the effort that's gone into all of this – over 60 percent of the chassis componentry is new – but it's not enough to make this into a car you'd really describe as 'rewarding'.

What it does do is perfect what was there in the first place. For most of the people, most of the time, this, dynamically, is all the car they will ever need, quietly and effectively getting on with the job of getting you from A to B.

Refinement

The 'quietly' bit's important. Almost all Insignia buyers want a diesel and though the original version of Vauxhall's 2.0 CDTi unit had many merits, refinement wasn't one of them. In fact, it was one of the noisiest, rattliest diesels in its class.

But isn't now. Though at the launch of this revised version, an old 2.0 CDTi 130 unit was still being offered as a range price leader, most sales emphasis these days is put on the two entry-level 2.0 CDTi ecoFLEX units, offering either 120 or 140PS.

There's also a less frugal 163PS version and a potent 195PS 2.0 CDTi Biturbo.

In the petrol range, there's also a cheap old-tech engine choice – the 140PS 1.8i unit – but again, more emphasis is being put on the modern turbo powerplant offerings, the 140PS 1.4T, the 170PS 1.6 SiDi and the 250PS 2.0 SiDi. At the top of the range, a 325PS 2.0 V6 continues in the VXR SuperSports model.

This VXR has 4WD but the only other model in the range that gets it is the Country Tourer estate version which, with its raised ride height, aims to offer an SUV alternative.

Outside, there are detail improvements front and rear that aim to bring a wider and lower look to the hatch, saloon and Sports Tourer estate bodystyles that, as before, make up the range. That's certainly the feel you get from the front end with its redesigned high-gloss chrome grille and thinner logo bar cradling a prominent Griffin badge and including winglets that link with the sleeker gloss black-trimmed headlights.

Up-to-date

And inside? Well it feels a great deal more up to date, with many of the previously scattered and confusing little buttons tidied up onto a (sadly optional) central 8-inch colour touchscreen that deals with everything from navigation to audio selections, Bluetooth phone functions to a series of Vauxhall-sourced apps.

There's even a slightly cheap-feeling touchpad behind the gearlever that accepts one, two or three finger gestures for the various operating functions – or you can press a button on the steering wheel and activate the whole thing by voice control.

More hi-tech can be viewed through the redesigned three-spoke leather-trimmed steering wheel where you'll find an instrument cluster with another 8-inch high resolution display.

This one, also optional and framed by conventional analogue gauges either side, is primarily there to show a virtual speedometer but can also be configured to display all sorts of information such as smartphone or audio use – or even navigation.

Out back, the hatch most choose offers a 530-litre boot – with 540-litres on offer in the Sports Tourer estate.

In theory, Insignia pricing covers a very wide span – anywhere between £17,000 and £33,000.

In practice, almost all Insignia sales are concentrated in the £17,000 to £22,000 bracket, with most of those going to business buyers who usually want one of the 2.0-litre CDTi diesel variants. Paying much more than that for this car takes it into the BMW 3 Series dominated compact executive saloon bracket where mainstream makers usually struggle.

Talking of saloons, there's a four-door Insignia saloon bodystyle as a no-cost option to the more familiar five-door hatch, but it comes with a much smaller range of trim and engine choices.



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New Kia Soul stands out

By Graham Breeze

The Kia Soul arrived in 2008 offering distinctive SUV styling, but despite being one of the first beefy crossovers in the UK sales never really took off.

Now Kia has introduced the second generation model with even more dramatic styling at just the right time with the B-segment SUV market really booming across Europe.

Kia research discovered that buyers are looking for the appearance, semi-elevated position and perceived safety advantages of a 4X4, but without the fuel consumption and taxation that all-wheel-drive normally brings to the party.

Riding on the same platform as the Kia Cee'd there's no doubting that this new arrival stands out in any company with the

distinctive chunky SUV-inspired looks of the bold original – but with more space.

The SUV look comes thanks to sharp angles and bulging wheel arches while the top spec Mixx 1.6 CRDi on test came with gloss black wheel extensions, 18 inch alloys and roof rails.

This Kia looks good and has performance to match. With 126bhp you can expect a top speed of 112mph, 0-60mph in 10.8 seconds, 56mpg on the combined cycle and CO2 levels of 132g/km.

Inside the cabin you'll find black woven upholstery, electric windows, tilt and telescoping steering wheel and a funky black high gloss centre fascia containing an eight inch touch screen with all the information you'll ever need to enjoy the driving experience.

There's 60/40 split folding rear seats and Kia has worked hard to improve storage space with plenty of extra pockets and cup holders.



'Improvements to the suspension system mean you get a better ride and feel more confident in corners.'

Compared to the first Soul, the latest version has a 20mm longer wheelbase and is 15mm wider and is 10mm lower to the ground. Boot space has increased by 14 litres to 354 litres, plus you get extra storage under the boot floor.

Safety has also been high on the agenda with ABS, electronic stability control, hill start, tyre pressure monitoring, emergency stop signalling with Normal, comfort and Sport modes available at the flick of a switch.

There's front, side and curtain airbags

and impact-sensing automatic door unlocking as well as an engine immobiliser.

Improvements to the suspension system mean you get a better ride and feel more confident in corners. The Soul is surprising comfortable on motorways too.

Prices start at £12,600 but the test car would cost you a cool £19,750, which is lot of money for a car of this size.

The advantages though include Kia's incredible seven year or 100,000 mile warranty and roadside assistance for 12 months.

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6
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One set of Winter tyres (little use).
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01952 730522 / 07930 551559.

MINI COOPER 1.6, green, 2000, full MoT, good condition £2,000 ono. 07593 575767.

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NISSAN MICRA S 2005, 1200cc, 54,000 miles, silver, 3 door, MOT till October, £1,500, 07751 489363.

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PEUGEOT 206CC 2004, Very good condition, fish, MOT, £1,500 ono, Call 07813 656743.

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ROVER 75 1.8 TURBO 2003, 53 reg, silver, 3 months MOT, 85,000 miles, £1,000 ono.
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TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 2005, 84k, lady owner, MOT Oct 2015, alloy, fish, excellent condition, fish, £1,995 ono, 01902 258138 or 07446 012127.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 3dr, hatch, 2002, MOT June, blue, petrol, 128k, 4 former keepers, excellent runner, £800 ono, 07773 894665.

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public & legal notices

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 115 Birch Crescent Tividale Oldbury West Midlands B69 1UF, who died on 29/04/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 22/05/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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10 Personals

personal

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Fourths keep up the pressure for shut out

Old Halesonians 4ths 27 Pershore 2nds 0
 OLD Hales were quickly into their stride and after several phases of play, prop Chris Deeks scored from close range. The conversion was missed.

Hales were immediately on the attack from the restart and after some good work by the forwards the ball was moved to the right, and a well-timed pass from Jack Linehan gave Dan Smith the space to score a well-worked try.

Smith was on the score sheet again following good work by hooker Gary Jones who offloaded the ball to him to score.

Pershore regained more possession and their flyhalf and centres made valiant attempts to breach the Old Hales defence, but it held firm.

The home side got back on track when they moved upfield and Jamie Leech ripped the ball from a maul and raced 20 metres to score under the posts. George Taylor added the conversion to make the score 22-0 at half time.

In the second half Old Hales capitalised on a deep kick from Pershore.

Smith collected the ball on the bounce and linked with Jamie Leech who in turn released Brad Vernon supporting on the right. Vernon raced 40 metres towards the Pershore line before passing inside to Jack Linehan who scored.

Old Hales scorers, Tries: Chris Deeks, Dan Smith (2), Jamie Leech, Jack Linehan Conversion: George Taylor.

Neither Old Halesonians 2nds or 3rds played games at the weekend.

Old Halesonians Colts 41 Bromsgrove Colts 27

DK runners get a testing with 20 milers

DUDLEY Kingswinford Running Club members tested themselves over longer distances last weekend with 20-mile races.

On Saturday a small band travelled to mid Wales for the Rhayader 20. Darran Bishop was first back in 40th place in 2.25.29, Paul Richards was 135th in 2.49.00, Ingrid Cain finished in 3.40.50 to claim 330th place and Debbie Richards was 344th in 3.55.55.

Twenty four hours later a group travelled to Milton Keynes with Richard Tonks bringing them home in 2.45.38 in 192nd place, Paul Baker came in 2.59.14 to take 339th position and Dave Ede was 399th in 3.05.29.

The third option was at Stafford. Ben Foster was fine tuning his London marathon preparation in 2.06.46 to take 13th place.

Cricket club celebrates selection

HALESOWEN cricketers are celebrating selection at county level after a host of successful winter trials.

The club have revealed Yusuf Khan, Elliot Evans, Tom Powell, Alex Jordan, Rhys Evans, Hayden Evans, Charlie Greening, Hassan Akram, Raqeeb Khan, Juhar Johal, Masharraf Shazad, Deon Patel and Tom Wickstead have been called to their respective Worcestershire County and District age group training squads.

In addition, Tom Duke, Tom Baker, Sam Butt, Jake Ricketts, George Byrne, Mustafa Mumtaz, Arran Singh, Archie Reeves and Nathan Hines have all been selected to represent the North Worcester-

shire District at their respective age groups. Club chairman Richard Evans said: "Once again the club are immensely proud that so many of our lads have been selected to play representative cricket this summer."

"We congratulate them all and a special mention must go to Juhar, Masharraf and Hayden who have all been selected for the Development of Excellence squads by Worcestershire."

"On behalf of the Club and all parents I would like to thank all of the coaches who continue to give their time freely and selflessly to develop all of our youth players."

Meanwhile the club will be unveiling several new

signings in the near future ahead of the new season with the first and second teams again playing in the Birmingham & District Premier Leagues and the third and fourth teams in the Worcester County League.

The Club hold its AGM on Thursday March 19 and all members, playing and non-playing are urged to attend.

Tickets are selling well for the evening with former World Darts semi-finalist and Sky Sports pundit Wayne Mardle on Wednesday April 29 which will be hosted by Mardle's commentating colleague Nigel Pearson.

Tickets are available from sportstalkvents.co.uk.

Grove fight back to snatch the match

Bromsgrove 30 Old Halesonians 25
THIS always had the makings of a great battle, both sides fighting to stay in the top half of the league with Grove one place above.

Hales came out battling from the off and the larger home pack were continually knocked back by ferocious tackling from the visitors.

Hales backs had a platform and within minutes centre Carl Robinson and Brother Andy were making breaks. Carl collected and sprinted through the defence for a try, converted by Chris Hooper.

It was one way traffic for 25 minutes with another break by C Robinson, to the supporting Hooper to Wing Luke Smith who sprinted for a try, converted by Hooper.

A penalty was then converted by Hooper. Grove came back with a penalty but Hales again dominated in most areas, Hooper breaking for a try for a 3-22 lead at half time. The home side came out refreshed and quickly set about the fight back.

Excellent

Though the Hales tackling was excellent the pressure told with two tries, one converted for a 15-22 score. Hales again came back forcing another penalty which Hooper converted to lead 15-25.

Hales again suffered injuries with wing Warren Oliver and second row Guy Field leaving the play, replaced by Patrick Lufkin and James Martin this left replacement issues. Loz Breese moved to centre, Andy Robinson to full back and Prop replacement Harry Higgs coming in at second row.

The disruption effected Hales with 15 minutes to go, Bromsgrove took advantage and a penalty brought them to 18-25. They fought back with a try from a lineup and driving maul. The conversion was successful to draw level 25-25 with 5 minutes to go.

Hales could not get possession, Grove again made ground, fed their backs for the left wing to avoid tacklers to score the deciding try in the corner for a final score and victory 30-25.

The visitors were distraught and could only witness an excellent fight back and victory.

Cup clash fans are a disgrace



Saido Berahino of West Bromwich Albion and Scott Sinclair of Aston Villa keeping their eye on the ball

Villa 2 Albion 0
 SATURDAY at Villa Park will not be remembered for what the players did.

For a Wembley-bound Villa that is a mighty shame. For a chastened Albion, it is probably a blessing.

Ugly scenes in the stands that spilled over onto the pitch stole the headlines from the teams on a highly-charged early evening in

Birmingham. Villa survived a first half in which the Baggies held sway then made the most of their own period of dominance with a couple of emphatic finishes to settle the tie.

The Baggies had the first attempt on goal when Craig Gardner fed Saido Berahino and his low shot was parried by Shay Given.

The hosts had struggled yet they led six minutes into the second

half. Charles N'Zogbia cut across the field from right to left and teed up Delph, who had freedom to let fly with a low, left-footed shot that beat Myhill too easily.

Just before the hour-mark the Baggies missed a glorious chance to equalise. On 85 minutes Villa's Scott Sinclair raced clear to finish. The sight of Sinclair finishing with aplomb capped a miserable day for Albion.

Dogged Blues battle on to grab a share of the spoils

Derby County 2 Blues 2
 BIRMINGHAM manager Gary Rowett saluted his side's never-say-die attitude after they grabbed a dramatic point at Championship title hopefuls Derby.

Blues were seemingly heading for defeat as the clocked ticked past 90 minutes but two stoppage time strikes from Paul Caddis and Clayton Donaldson earned them a share of the spoils.

The home fans were cheering after 20 minutes when Ward pounced at the back post after a Johnny Russell shot had been parried by Darren Randolph.

Derby were in total control when Ince cut inside and fired low into the right corner in the 48th minute but the game took a dramatic and unexpected twist in added time.

First Tom Ince tripped Robert Tesche to give away a penalty, which Caddis drove past Lee Grant, and then Wesley Thomas hooked back a corner and Rob Kiernan's header struck Donaldson's shoulder and rolled in.

Rowett admitted: "It looked to all intents and purposes that the game was over but I just felt there were little moments in the last 15 minutes when you could see there might be something for us."

"Whether we deserved it or not is not really relevant, the fact is we've kept going and kept believing and trying to get something out of the game."

"As we all know, until the game is all over it's not over."

It was a happy ending for Rowett who was involved in a heated exchange on the touchline with Derby players at the end of the first half after he was angered by Johnny Russell.

Anslow brace puts game out of Hayes' reach

Lye Town 3 Heath Hayes 1
 HEATH Hayes's mini-revival came to an end when they visited third-placed Lye Town.

Hayes were forced into playing outfield player Luke Farley in goal due to a goalkeeping crisis with three injured.

Ricky Anslow volleyed a great goal to put Lye one up on 25 minutes and a second followed when Anslow latched onto a through-ball from Ben Jevons.

In the second half Lye used the slope to their advantage putting the Hayes defence on the back foot.

On 70 mins Lye made it 3-0 with a penalty which was dispatched by Damian Whitcombe who five minutes later was sent off when he was deemed to have committed deliberate hand ball giving Dan Scragg the chance to pull a goal back for Hayes.

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Sport

Grove snatch the match from Hales
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Glassboys blown out by Spartans

Stourbridge 0 Blyth Spartans 3
STOURBRIDGE were blown apart by impressive FA Cup heroes Blyth Spartans.

The Glassboys were given a wake-up call straight from the kick-off when top marksman Rob Dale got behind their defence and then squared the ball across the face of an open goal, but nobody was on hand to take advantage.

Stourbridge tried to hit back, Leon Broadhurst' wicked inswinging corner finishing up the wrong side of the post while Kayelden Brown was denied when Spartans goalkeeper Nick Thomson saved bravely at his feet when clean through on goal.

But Spartans steadily assumed command of midfield and should have scored on 14 minutes when the dangerous Danny Maguire was brought down by goalkeeper Dean Coleman but Dale's resulting penalty was ballooned so high over the crossbar it finished closer to the tea bar.

It was only a short stay of execution for Stourbridge as Spartans took the lead on 22 minutes when Steve Turnbull curled a superbly taken free kick around the defensive wall and into the net with Coleman rooted at the opposite post.

Stourbridge could have clawed a goal back on 71 minutes when Junior Smikle had a shot cleared off the line by defender Matt Wade following a well worked free kick routine.

Spartans duly added a third goal on 81 minutes when substitute striker Danny Hawkins was sent racing clear to shot past Coleman.

And Hawkins could have netted a fourth in stoppage time but was denied by Coleman. It now means Stourbridge have gone eight games without a win.

Pedmore take the game away from Enville batsmen

Pedmore (134-4) beat Enville A (119-3) by 15 runs

ENVILLE won the toss and invited Pedmore to bat. When Dave Skelding was run out in the second over the decision looked justified.

Then the Pedmore batsmen took over. Dan Jones smashed 25 in two overs to retire. Enville fielders had retreated to try and stem the onslaught so Matt Porter and Sam Peruzza used the angles and corners to take easy threes.

Both retired, and wickets were sacrificed to get the retired batsmen back and the runs continued to accrue.

Pedmore set a very challenging but not impossible task for Enville to chase, the key would be a good start and the openers provided just that.

Greg Tomkins took 21 from Sam Peruzza's first over to retire in the second over. Matt Branch (30n) continued the good work with excellent running between wickets and with retirements Enville got to 110 in the 11th over.

Oldswinford (115-2) beat Pedmore B (78-5) by 37 runs

In a friendly match Oldswinford were a little too strong for Pedmore.

This is my dream job, says Clegg

MAX Clegg says he has landed the dream job as Cradley skipper for the new season.

Clegg will lead the Heathens into action at Birmingham next Wednesday, March 18, in the first leg of the Travel Plus Challenge.

Clegg, who will be riding for the Heathens for the third consecutive season in 2015, says he can't wait to get going and is predicting another 'amazing year' for the side.

"It's been my dream ever since I started with Cradley to become their number one and to be captain as well is a pleasure knowing that I can be such a big part of the club," he said.

Speedway

"If I could guide the club to a hat-trick of league titles in my first year as number one and captain, that would be such a big thing and such an amazing achievement – it would be heaven for me.

"All of the teams have got really strong heat-leaders but I think the reserves and the riders in the lower part of the team are going to be key.

"I think Mike (Neale) will have a good year and there's a lots of expectations from Ellis (Perks) – they will give it their best but if they do what we

know they can do, then I don't think anything's going to stop Cradley again this year."

The young Yorkshireman, who turns 18 next month, feels he has been handed the 'ultimate reward' following his excellent run of form from the second half of the 2014 campaign.

He is also hoping that he can use his own previous memories to make him the perfect skipper. Clegg said: "I remember when I started at reserve, Lewis (Blackbird) and Ash (Morris) were brilliant with me and then Starkey (Paul Starke) was excellent last year.

"I think if I can help the boys this year like they all helped me then we're in for a good season."

Wolves get a point from home battle

Wolves 2 Watford 2

KENNY Jackett's side, perhaps, deserved more than a point from this high-tempo encounter for the way they dominated much of the game.

But with 10 games to go, this was probably one they needed to win to start eating into that four-point gap to the play-off places.

Jackett deployed the recently under-used James Henry in the No.10 role.

But Henry has the intelligence, subtlety of touch and vision to justify his manager's faith in him and he responded with a man of the match performance.

Benik Afobe gave the home side the perfect start in the 14th minute with his seventh goal in 11 games for his new club, taking his tally to 26 for the season which made him the leading marksman in all four divisions.

Even at £2m, Afobe looks a steal. It's difficult to recall a Wolves striker with the combination of such control, quick feet, pace and movement.

And he showed all those qualities as he effortlessly brought down Kevin McDonald's pass before taking a touch and slotting it past keeper Heurelho Gomes.

Wolves retained the initiative but failed to penetrate. And they found themselves all square again.

Former Walsall striker Troy Deeney's long pass from the left was gobbled up by Matej Vydra and the ex-Albion loanee did the rest.

Jack Price's first senior goal five minutes after the restart gave the home side some reward for flying out of the traps as he deflected in Kortney Hause's long-range drive.

However, Wolves were made to rue not making the most of their chances when Deeney poked home the equaliser.

Williamson eager to start new season

CRADLEY Heathens star Matt Williamson is counting down the days in eagerness for the new season to start.

Williamson, who came through a successful practice session at Peterborough on Saturday, confirmed he is feeling fit and ready for the new season which is just over a week away.

He said: "I was the first to admit the end of last season was tough for me for a number of reasons, but after spending time back on a bike over the past few weeks I can't wait to go racing again.

"I feel fit and keen to impress everyone this season and want to improve again on what I achieved last season, both personally and hopefully with Cradley."

★★★

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PENALTY SEALS FATE FOR DK

DK 12 Longton 31

DK kicked off and through good play established themselves in the Longton half for the first quarter of the game.

Pressure was built up on Longton and DK should have probably scored one or two tries during this period.

DK's best attack followed a Jamie Hearn penalty into the bank corner at the far end.

From the line out DK were awarded an attacking scrum, from which Scrum half James "Speedy" Jefferson, nipped down the blind side making inroads into the Longton defence.

The ball was recycled well and shipped across the DK three quarter line, to T J Gordon on the wing.

He skilfully drew in the defenders and released full back Ben Brown, who in turn was stopped short.

The DK forwards were in close support and efficiently recycled the ball back to Jamie Hearn who threatened the Longton defensive line and was able to feed James Fildes on a strong straight run through a gap.

However, the Longton midfield were just able to gang tackle Fildes, it looked for all the world like a try, but the defensive line remained intact.

Straightforward

In the second quarter Longton came more into the game and were able to score two tries.

The first try came from an extra man in the line allowing full back Luke Fowles to run in what in the end was a fairly straightforward try.

Their second try was also made in the same area of the pitch with one of the centres running straight and hard drawing in DK tacklers, and getting the ball away to right wing Liam Price, who had an unopposed run to the line.

Kicking off the second half with the wind at their backs, DK were soon applying pressure.

But perhaps the incident that confirmed it wasn't going to be DK's day happened.

After a few minutes of the second half, DK forced Longton to mishandle and Speedy gathered the loose ball and skipped in for a try, only to turn round and find the referee penalising DK for offside.

Then, there was an incident that was confusing.



Luke Greenwood scores DK's first try late in the game against Longton

Longton had made a sweeping attack and were closing in on the DK line, when Danny Hawkins was given a yellow card for a high tackle.

But the Referee was straight under the posts for a penalty try, which summed DK's day up.

Luke Fowles added another try, which took the score to 0-26, giving Longton the bonus point that relegated DK.

Then, true to recent form, a late revival. Luke Greenwood in his first game back after a long injury lay off dived over the line following a driving maul to make 5-26 with 15 minutes to go.

Then the backs got in on the act, pressure from TJ Gordon and then Joel Barret caused the Longton full back to drop the ball and the alert Mark

Cartwright was on hand to touch down. Jamie Hearn added the extras.

To finish the scoring Liam Price made it a brace when he ran in unopposed in the last minute to make the score.

Two players are certainly worthy of special mention for their contribution to the game, firstly, Speedy who had caused a few eyebrows to be raised when people looked at the team sheet, but he played magnificently at scrum half and could have been man of the match, close behind would have been Luke Greenwood who quickly showed what DK had been missing during his injury absence.

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